

# BCNetter

Issue No. 21, June 2023



## Dear **BCNet Members**

It was with great excitement and anticipation that we received our colleagues and Member States' delegations at IARC in May 2023 to inaugurate the new IARC building. The move of the Agency to its new home was greatly needed because, during the last few years, the old facilities that were built half a century ago were well beyond their serviceable life. The French government, together with the regions of Rhone-Alpes and the city of Lyon funded the construction and delivery of a new building for IARC. The move into the new facilities took place from November 2022 to January 2023, and the official opening was celebrated on 12 May.

[Click here](#) to watch the video of the official inauguration of the new IARC building.

The new IARC building has almost double the capacity for the biobank and there is more than 30% extra working space in the laboratories. The number of meeting rooms that can be used for educational purposes has also increased significantly. IARC now has the potential to accommodate nearly double the

number of researchers and can look forward to a future where new opportunities can be pursued without the constraints caused by the lack of space and limitations of the old facilities.

In this environment, it is an ideal time to think ahead and plan the future steps across all our programs. BCNet was exceptionally grateful to receive the renewal of its financial support by the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute in the USA and will continue to engage with biobanks and researchers establishing or managing population cohorts across the world, and in particular in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. Thus, as with a renewed building, the staff involved with IARC renew their commitments for a stronger, more ambitious BCNet in years to come.

Indeed, after a successful presentation in two sessions at the ISBER meeting and a productive workshop with colleagues from Armenia and the Czech Republic as part of the ARICE grant, we are now organizing a key workshop for the upcoming AORTIC meeting in Senegal, as well as online training for colleagues in Egypt and Indonesia. We look forward to hearing from you, your needs, thoughts and opinions as we plan for a stronger collaborative future in cancer research.

Zisis Kozlakidis and Tracy Wootton

## **BCNet Coordinators**



# Meetings and conferences



## 2023 Annual ISBER meeting

The 2023 Annual ISBER meeting was held in Seattle, USA, from May 3 – 6, and will be held virtually from June 6 – 7. The theme this year was 'Building biobanking bridges' and the co-chairs, Drs Anusha Hettiaratchi (Australia), Birendra Kumar Yadav (India), and Dayong Gao (USA), warmly welcomed participants and their contributions around this central theme.



IARC was represented by Ms Sandra Nanyonga, pictured above with long-term BCNet supporter and former ISBER President Dr Debra Leiolani Garcia.

Two sessions were of great interest for BCNet members: i) the 2023 BIOBANKING 101 WORKSHOP, co-created by Marianne Henderson. This workshop was held twice to accommodate participants from around the globe, on April 19, and

April 20, 2023, ii) the 'RISING STARTS IN BIOBANKING' session that will be shown in the virtual section of the meeting, hosting a number of biobanks from around the world, including BCNet members and collaborators from Mali, Indonesia and Armenia.



## Biospecimens Forum

The Biospecimens Forum was held on 3 March 2023, organized by the Takeda Science Policy Think Tank (co-founded by Dr Annette Schmid), and supported by the RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Sciences, Japan; ISBER; Ropes & Gray; and the journal Biopreservation and Biobanking. The focus of this forum was South-east Asia, and many of the BCNet members and colleagues participated.

Session 1 discussed the 'Hurdles and solutions to the use of biospecimen and associated data – an Asia-Pacific perspective', while Session 2 looked into the 'Diversity within and representativeness of biospecimen for secondary research'.

A white paper will be created summarising the discussions, and may be published in the journal Biopreservation and Biobanking later in the year. We will provide the links once they become available.

## Upcoming meetings and conferences



### 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.

Registration for the meeting is open now.  
<https://cryo2023.com/register/#>

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

### AHIS 2023



The upcoming 'Advancing Healthcare Innovation Summit' will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio on **11 November 2023**. It is a global conference showcasing the newest in healthcare innovation, inclusive of LMIC settings. The abstract submissions have opened, and the deadline for submission is **15 August 2023**. The abstracts for all accepted submissions will be indexed in the journal 'Innovations in Digital Health, Diagnostics and Biomarkers'.

Further details can be found at:

<https://innovativehealthcareinstitute.com/ahis-2023/>



The 14th AORTIC International Conference on Cancer in Africa will take place in Dakar from **2 to 6 November 2023**, bringing together multidisciplinary specialists from the global cancer community to reduce the impact of cancer in Africa.

The biennial AORTIC International Conference on Cancer in Africa is the definitive event on the African health calendar, enabling the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to learn from oncology leaders from all over Africa and around the world.

Register here: <https://aorticconference.org/>

**Note:** The abstract submission deadline has been extended to **Wednesday, 31 May**. Find out all about the abstract submission and review process [here](#). The deadline for bursary applications has also been extended until **Wednesday, 31 May**. [Click here](#) for more information.

### BBMRI-ERIC ELSI DIALOGUES BIOBANK LEGISLATION WEBINAR

**Introduction to the Belgian Biobank Legislation.** A piece of the puzzle in the complicated EU regulatory landscape. Webinar on **31 May 2023 at 14:00 CEST**.

[Click here](#) for more information

## Opportunities for funding, training & collaboration



The journal DB invites applications for 1-year, part-time, volunteer editorial fellowships beginning August 1, from medical and clinical research 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, while they will also have the opportunity to publish their work. Applications should be submitted by 2 June 2023.

More details at:

[https://meridian.allenpress.com/innovationsjournals-iddb/pages/iddb\\_editorial\\_fellowship](https://meridian.allenpress.com/innovationsjournals-iddb/pages/iddb_editorial_fellowship)

## Recent publications from our Members



[Kintossou AK, Villar S, Kozlakidis Z. Immunological considerations for laboratory staff and COVID-19 biosafety. \*Biosaf Health\*. 2023; 5 \(2\): 108-111.](#)

[Sfera A, Hazan S, Kozlakidis Z, Klein C. Microbiota-derived psychedelics: Lessons from COVID-19. \*Adv Clin Exp Med\*. 2023; 32 \(4\): 395-399.](#)

[Grossman GH & Henderson MK. Readiness for Artificial Intelligence in Biobanking. \*Biopreservation and Biobanking\*. 2023; 21 \(2\): 119-120.](#)

## Recent publications from our Members (cont.)



[Kozlakidis Z. The incidence of Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) among vaccinated healthcare workers \(HCWs\): evidence for protection from hospitalisation from an Indonesian cohort. \*Lancet Reg Health Southeast Asia\*. 2023; 11: 100146.](#)

[Nur Aisyah D, Lokopessy AF, Naman M, Diva H, Manikam L, Adisasmito W, Kozlakidis Z. The Use of Digital Technology for COVID-19 Detection and Response Management in Indonesia: Mixed Methods Study. \*Interact J Med Res\*. 2023; 12: e41308.](#)

[Ibrahim ME, Adarmouch L, Elgamri A, ElHafeez SA, Mohammed Z, Abdelgawad F, et al. Researchers' Perspectives Regarding Ethical Issues of Biobank Research in the Arab Region. \*Biopreservation and Biobanking\*. Ahead of print.](#)

[Uvere EO, Nichols M, Ojebuyi BR, Isah SY, Calys-Tagoe B, Jenkins C, et al. Capacity-Building for Stroke Genomic Research Data Collection: The African Neurobiobank Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Project Experience. \*Biopreservation and Biobanking\*. 2023; 21 \(2\): 158-165.](#)

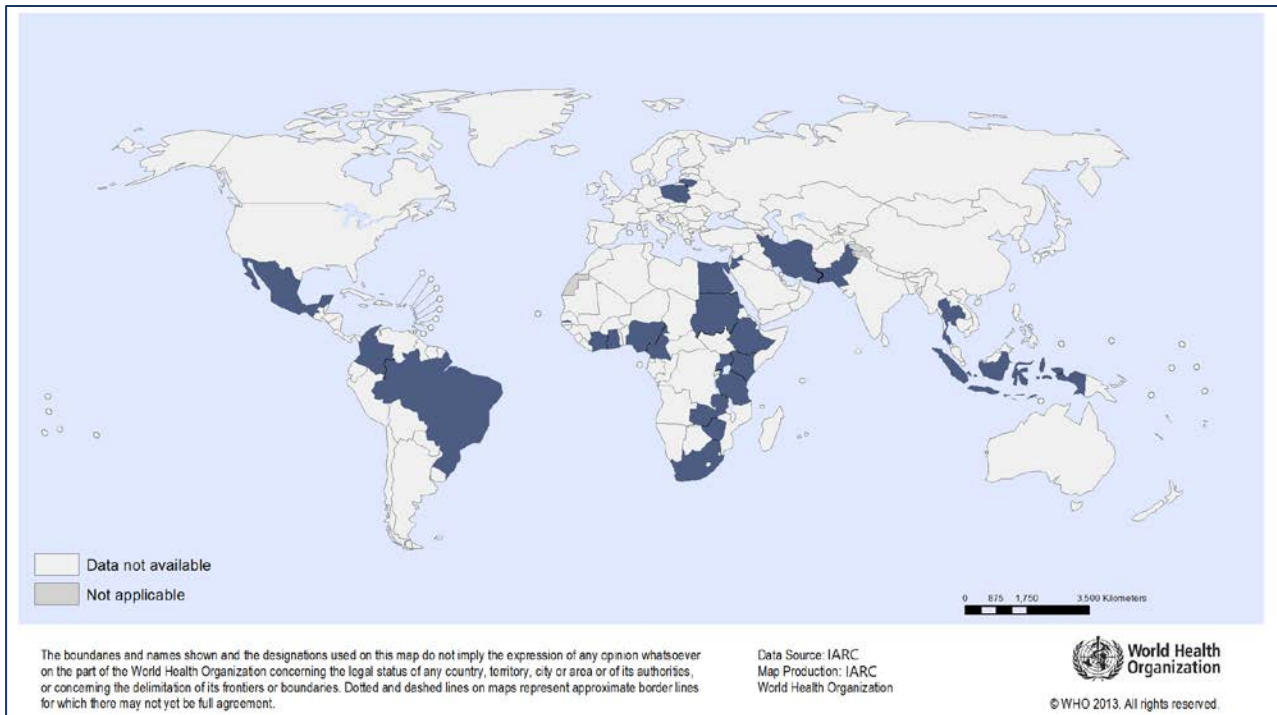
[Sfera A, Hazan S, Klein C, Zapata-Martin del Campo CM, Sasannia S, Anton JJ, et al. Microbial Translocation Disorders: Assigning an Etiology to Idiopathic Illnesses. \*Applied Microbiology\*. 2023; 3\(1\): 212-240.](#)

[Luong, JHC, Kozlakidis Z, Cheong I, Wang H. Innovations and Limitations in Areca Nut Research: A Narrative Review. \*Innovations in Digital Health, Diagnostics, and Biomarkers\* \(2023\); 3: 9-14.](#)

[AlKnawy B, Kozlakidis Z, Tarkoma S, Bates D, Konkela A, Crooks G, et al. Digital public health leadership in the global fight for health security. \*BMJ global health\*. 2023; \(2\): e011454.](#)

[Sfera A, Hazan S, Kozlakidis Z. Microbial Translocation Disorders: The Role of Innate Lymphoid Cells. \*International Journal of Medical Science and Clinical Invention\*. 2023; 10 \(01\): 6352-6361.](#)

# 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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