

REPORT 2011 TRAVEL AWARD
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I do want to express my gratefulness to ISBER for the opportunity to attend the ISBER 2011 annual meeting. Our institution currently is working on improving the processes related with the quality of data management and ethical issues of Biobanks samples. In Colombia we have legal and ethical standards surrounding the management of clinical samples, however, there are no specific rules in the management of Biobank samples. In this sense, my attendance at this important event allowed me to receive updated and specific information about these aspects.

The use of software in the data management was a very important point for our institution because we are in the process of developing software according to our needs. The workshop “Evaluation and Design of Information Management Systems for Biorepositories”, and the session “Technology and Informatics for Repository Operations” gave me a guide on technical aspects to consider in developing the software and showed the advantages and disadvantages between purchasing and building software. I had also the opportunity to learn about a variety of software offered by vendors.

At the level of ethical and legal aspects many relevant conferences were presented both in the workshop and in the meeting. Conferences related to the use of informed consent, such as the one provided by Dr. Scott Jewel, will allow us to make adjustments to the informed consent document that we use currently in CIDEIM. Another topic that caught my attention was the reporting of research results to the donors of samples. There were very interesting discussions on this topic, with different points of view from experts from different countries. The experience shared by the speakers on this and other ethical and legal issues is something that I will discuss with the human research participant protection group at CIDEIM.

During the workshop I had also the opportunity to learn about some technical aspects on the cryopreservation of samples. Proper handling of samples and quality control was also a major theme in the presentation of the posters.

The experience of attending the ISBER meeting resolved several specific questions I had in relation to the management of Biobanks, but mostly, it generated new ideas and expectations about the wide scope of Biobanks and the work that we can do at CIDEIM. In order to continue learning from this community of experts, I would like to join ISBER in the coming year. Finally, I would like to congratulate the organizers of the event, which was extremely well coordinated.