

REPORT 2008 ISBER TRAVEL AWARD May 18-21, 2008

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On behalf of my institution, Instituto Nacional de Cancerología, I want to express my gratitude to ISBER Council for the opportunity to assist to ISBER meeting 2008. We plan to inaugurate our National Cancer Bank in the next October and we are planning begin the tissue collect in January 2010. For this, the ISBER meeting 2008 has been a huge impact in several aspects:

The theme of the meeting was "Global Biobanking Collaborations: Challenges and Opportunities". For us is very important making contacts that can help us to establish our National Cancer Bank. One of these contacts was Dr. Manuel Morente who has been an excellent advisor for our bank. He has supports us in several aspects, including the requirements and technical aspects. He introduced us to the "Red latinoamericana de Biobancos" and open our mind to network and collaboration with other Latin-American countries. We also made contact with Maria Fernanda Correa de Adjounian, who works in Venezuela and has a similar plan, as us.

Other important contact was Dr. Peter Riegman, Director of TUBAFROST Tumor tissue Biobank. I had the opportunity to visit him and his bank at Rotterdam the last November and this experience change my mind about tissue biobanks.

Quality of speakers, as Dr. Francis Collins, Marianna Bledsoe, Robert Hewitt, Paul Burton was really great.

The workshops "Promoting Biobanking: Repositories as critical Resources for the Institution, the Research Community, and the Public" and Balancing your Bank: Biobanking Cost Recovery & Financial Planing" was the most important for us. Many thanks to the ISBER Education and Training Committee. The people, institutions and countries that want to establish a Biobank need a lot these kind of workshops.

I also had the opportunity to attend to "INFORMATICS FOR REPOSITORIES: How Pathology's Data and Clinical Tissue Flow Can be Harnessed to the Mission of Biospecimen Repositories".

We plan to apply for ISBER membership in January 2010 and be active member of Marble Arch ISBER group.