Message From the President

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2012! ISBER has had a very exciting and busy few months since my last President’s update. The highlight of my November 2011 was representing ISBER at the first meeting of the European Society for Biopreservation and Biobanking (ESBB) in Marseille, France. This meeting marked the launch of ISBER’s first official chapter that will focus on regional biobanking issues in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Kathi Shea, (President-Elect), Cheryl Michels (Secretary-Treasurer), and I representing the ISBER, met with the ESBB Executive Committee, led by Pasquale De Blasio (outgoing ESBB President) and Peter Riegemann (incoming ESBB President). We discussed proposals to integrate several of our activities to strengthen the biobanking community through this regional chapter formation. The President of ISBER was invited to be a non-voting member of the ESBB Executive Committee and the ESBB President joined the ISBER Council as a non-voting member.

We agreed that the ISBER Working Groups (WGs) would be open for membership to ESBB members. At the Marseille meeting, the ISBER WGs were introduced by Karen Pitt and a strong contingent of WG representatives that were in attendance. Subsequent to the introductions, each WG met with interested ESBB members in breakout sessions.

ISBER and ESBB leaders also agreed to work toward joining forces on some of our standing committees. The details of the memberships of the committees will be discussed and worked out by the ISBER Strategic Planning Committee and presented to the ISBER Council and ESBB Executive Committee as a proposal. Final plans will be incorporated in the guiding principles of our committees, found in the ISBER Operating Procedures (http://www.isber.org/gov/operate.pdf). In analyzing our committees, we pinpointed committees where our missions and goals heavily overlap and those committees where the mission is similar but have a different focus and goals. For the

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Editor’s Corner

My deadline for this quarter’s newsletter finds me finishing up a really great experience, working with other great ISBER folks on a white paper for a government biorepository. Sharing so much of our combined knowledge was a real joy – and just another example of why ISBER works so well, with so many members happy to share what they know, to help make things work better.

Our heartiest congratulations go out to the organizers of the ESBB launch in Marseilles this past November. (See write-ups in this issue). By all accounts, there was a terrific response in numbers of attendees, a lot of great science and information in the presentations and posters, excellent vendors’ displays, and a good time was had by all.

Recently, I learned about a book that really intrigued me: “History and Origins of Cryogenics.” I was curious, so I followed up for more information, and discovered that it describes the history of cryogenic gases and their uses (it’s not just liquid nitrogen!) all over the world. Having focused on LN2 for years

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committees with overlapping missions, we will form joint committees containing both ISBER and ESBB members. For those committees with varied focus, ISBER and ESBB committees will maintain separate memberships but will invite non-voting representatives from the alternate committee so both groups stay informed about each other’s activities. We look forward to sharing the plans with the ISBER and ESBB members in the future.

Another important activity that we are targeting to be fully developed in time for the 2013 membership campaign will be a fee structure that allows for a joint membership option. All of the details of this plan have yet to be developed, so please stay tuned for more information in the future. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the interactions among our ISBER and ESBB leaders and members.

I am so grateful for the ISBER Strategic Planning Committee’s efforts in crafting an excellent operational guidance document for regional chapter formation.

Another big development for ISBER is ISBER Connect, our new online members-only community that will be launched in 2012. ISBER Connect will offer new ways to organize your relationships with other ISBER Members and Committee activities. ISBER Connect is much more robust than simply a listserv and document storage system. It’s an exclusive, online social network for all ISBER members with the ability to support our committees, working groups and member-initiated communities. The ASIP office staff, led by efforts of Michele Zink, have done a fabulous job in setting up the system, creating training documents, and conducting beta test activities with the ISBER Council and Committee members. We hope you enjoy this new tool to support our community and welcome any feedback as we all gain more experience using ISBER Connect.

Remember to save the date for the ISBER 2012 Annual Meeting and Exhibits that will be held on May 15-18, 2012 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Please go to the ISBER website (www.isber.org) to find a preliminary program and information on the early bird registration for the meeting and logistics. The program will be exciting and worth the investment of your time.

Marianne K. Henderson, M.S.
U.S. National Cancer Institute
ISBER President

ISBER Members!

It’s time to activate your 2012 ISBER Membership!

Renew your ISBER annual dues NOW to prevent interruption to your member services.

www.isber.org/members/renew.cfm

Early (Reduced) Registration Deadline:
March 5, 2012

Hotel Reservations Deadline:
April 13, 2012

We invite you to join us for the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) 2012 Annual Meeting, Keeping Step in an Evolving Global Research Environment: BioBanking for Now and for the Future, May 15-18, 2012 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. This meeting will feature plenary sessions, educational workshops, corporate workshops, contributed papers, poster sessions, and working group discussions.

Vendors from around the world will demonstrate the latest products, services, and technology in the field of repository and specimen collection.

The ISBER 2012 Annual Meeting & Exhibits will be held at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, conveniently located within close proximity to many historic and modern attractions in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Plan now to attend this premiere event in the field of repository and specimen management. Meet with your colleagues from around the world and view the latest technology and equipment in the specimen collection and repository industry!

Session topics are expected to cover the following areas:

- The Evolving Global Research Environment: New Partnerships and Collaborations
- Keeping Step with New Technologies
- Innovative Technologies
- Keeping Step with the Evolving Ethical-Legal Environment
- Ensuring Sustainability for Now and the Future in the Face of Global Crises

www.isber.org/2012

Exhibitor Application Deadline - February 20, 2012
The Biopreservation Research Consortium (BRC) proposes to streamline academic research and development to address the problems/concerns of the end users of the preservation technologies. To this end, the BRC brings faculty involved in preservation research, cell therapy, and biobanking together with industry, governmental agencies, and other organizations for the purpose of accelerating advances in preservation and their dissemination. A goal of the BRC is the engagement of scientists and engineers in a pre-competitive, nonproprietary, and collaborative environment.

The planning meeting of the Biopreservation Research Consortium was held on 02 Nov 2011. In attendance were Maria Thompson (BioCision), David Lewandowski (Cryo Bio System), Laurie Huget (Cryo Bio System), (Cryogenic Society of America), Tahmina Naoui (Innovative Surface Technologies), Helen Moore (Office of Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research, NCI), Edward Highsmith (Mayo Clinic), Eric Vincent (Promega), James Einum (Preservation Solutions), Mike Hogan (IntegenX), and from the University of Minnesota (U of MN): Amy Skubitz, Alptekin Aksan, Chris Wendt, and Allison Hubel.

Allison Hubel, Director of the Biopreservation Core Resource (BioCoR) and site director of the BRC, opened the meeting with a detailed description of the BRC and the manner by which it will operate. The BRC is meant to foster member-driven, collaborative research addressing the two program areas: cell therapy and biobanking. The following is a brief summary of the critical points:

Who can propose projects?
Anyone who is a member of the BRC may propose a project. This includes students, faculty, and members from industry, governmental agencies, and professional societies. New projects are proposed once per year and evaluated by members at one of the two annual meetings.

How are projects selected?
Members select projects to be pursued.

How are projects funded?
Funding for the projects comes from membership fees, internal funds, and funds from governmental agencies.

Benefits of Membership:
Financial benefits of membership include pooling of resources to address issues in preservation in a non-competitive manner. Reduced overhead is applied to consortia at the U of MN meaning that more money can be used for research. The BRC is also designed to pool funding from different sources. From a strategic standpoint, membership in the BRC provides its members with early awareness of research in the field of preservation, the opportunity to collaborate and advocate for specific projects, advancing the preservation in a non-competitive, non-proprietary manner and highly favorable intellectual property arrangements. Companies will benefit from contact with students trained in this field as future employees. The BRC is also developing a member-in-residence program in which employees from member companies would be able to work on BRC projects at the U of MN.

Faculty from the U of MN presented potential projects for the first round and meeting participants evaluated each of the eight projects presented. Ed Highsmith of the Mayo Clinic led a discussion of the consortium and the proposed projects. Projects were ranked and if, needed, objectives were realigned. The meeting participants agreed that the BRC fills a needed gap in preservation research. Furthermore, the BRC presented a sufficient number of projects that exist in a pre-competitive space, which will facilitate industry involvement. High priority projects were selected and the objectives of the studies were realigned to make them synergistic.

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Three professional societies have become sponsors of the BRC: IsBiotech, Cryogenic Society of America, and AABB. We are in the process of signing up members (it does take time) to the BRC and you can check the BioCoR website regularly for the updated list of members and sponsors. More information on the consortium can be found on the website (http://biocor.umn.edu/consortium1). If you are interested in becoming a member of the BRC, please contact us at biocor@me.umn.edu and we would be happy to send you a membership agreement and discuss any questions that you may have regarding the BRC. We anticipate that the first round of projects will be starting in early 2012.

ISBER Connect is software that will help ISBER members collaborate and enrich the science of biobanking. After logging in, you will have access to a personalized members-only area including your personal profile, document and resource libraries, discussion boards, and a glossary (with many other features to come).

How will all of this help you in your career? The members-only area is personalized for you. All of your ISBER committee and working group information will be in one place. You can communicate with peers using the ISBER Open Forum general member discussion board. Members can even create their own discussion group open to all members or by invitation-only. There is also a public library containing white papers and reference documents. Your Profile can be personalized to include not only your contact information, but your Bio, Work History, and Interests (either from the preloaded list or ones you create). ISBER Connect will enable you to search for other members with similar Interests or see who is in your Network. There is also a collaborative Glossary allowing any member to add and modify content. Please add terms and edit descriptions.

ISBER is working to enrich the science of biobanking. This is just the beginning and its success depends on your participation. The more you add, by participating in discussion boards, editing the glossary, or adding sample documents, the better the system will be. We will not rest. There are enhancements coming – one of them will be blogs! Join the ISBER Connect Q&A community to share any updates you would like to see.

We are here to help you navigate ISBER Connect. You can contact us by email, schedule time to talk during Q&A office hours, or visit the ISBER Connect area at the ISBER Annual Meeting to have questions answered.

Michele Zink  
Project Manager, ISBER  
mzink@asip.org
ESBB’s Inaugural Conference in Marseille

The European, Middle Eastern & African Society for Biopreservation & Biobanking (ESBB) held its first conference in Marseille, France, from the 16th to 19th November. The conference venue was the Pullman Palm Beach Hotel which is located on the southern side of Marseille. The setting is spectacular with beautiful views of the coast and the weather was excellent – clear blue skies on most days.

The conference attracted 380 attendees. Of these, 84% were from Europe, 13% from North America, 2% from Africa and 1% from Asia. This was quite different from the ISBER meeting in Rotterdam which had a similar number of attendees, but instead 44% from Europe, 46% from North America, 1% from South America, 0.5% from Africa, 5% from Asia and 4% from Australasia. Clearly, the ESBB chapter meeting attracted a different audience. There were 36 exhibitor booths which filled up the available exhibit space perfectly.

The conference theme was: “Identifying the challenges and the opportunities for biorepositories today and in the next 5 years” with the intention of using this information to guide ESBB’s future activities. The overall range of issues considered was wide, extending from the sample donor to the repository to the generation of research results. The meeting catered to all parties interested in biobanking from both human and non-human biobanks, with particular emphasis on issues relevant for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, since this is the geographic scope of ESBB.

Just to pick a few of the highlights from the 50+ talks: The keynote speaker was Christian Bréchot of the diagnostics company BioMerieux, who talked on the subject of public-private partnerships in biobanking. A video of this presentation will be available for viewing on the ESBB website in mid-January 2012. Hagen von Briesen of Fraunhofer IBMT described activities of the HIV Specimen Cryorepository (HSC) and the use of a mobile state-of-the-art laboratory in rural areas of South Africa. Michael Christman of the Coriell Institute for Medical Research spoke about “Biobanking in the Era of Whole Genome Sequencing and Personalized Medicine”. Herbert Gottweiss gave a talk on “Biobanks and Public Opinion in Europe”. There were excellent talks by many other people and slides from many of their presentations can be downloaded from the ESBB website (http://www.esbb.org/nov2011/index.html).

A special session was devoted to discussion of the Bio-PIN concept (labelling of anonymous samples with a PIN code based on personal biological characteristics, such as a set of SNPs). The presenter, Dr JJ Nietfeld, gave a 30 minute presentation and this was followed by 30 minutes of lively discussion chaired by Marianna Bledsoe and Christian Chabannon. Many who attended would agree that Bio-PIN concept deserves to be taken seriously and certainly there will be more news to follow on this topic!

Karen Pitt chaired a session in which there were a series of presentations on ISBER Working Groups. Later in the conference, attendees had the opportunity to meet with the presenters in small group discussions. Hopefully this will bring a significant number of new members to the Working Groups. The signs were certainly encouraging for Paul Bartels’ Enviro-Bio group which attracted 23 people to the small group discussion.

To focus extra attention on the posters at this conference, we had a “lightning round” poster discussion session and prizes were awarded in 6 different categories. You can see photos of the prize-winning posters on the ESBB website, where they will stay for the next year.

Corporate workshops were held one at a time during the morning breaks and at lunch-time. This was a more popular arrangement than having the workshops running concurrently and certainly resulted in good audiences for some sessions.

We had a traditional ISBER-style business and awards meeting. Pasquale De Blasio handed over the gavel to Peter Riegman, the in-coming President. The new President-elect, Rita Lawlor, was welcomed into office. Also, ISBER President Marianne Henderson gave a talk about ISBER and the relationship with chapters. Awards were given for the best posters and Pasquale received an award in recognition of his special contribution as ESBB’s founding President.

ESBB’s executive committee meeting was attended by three representatives of ISBER Council: Marianne Henderson, Kathi Shea and Cheryl Michels. We had very positive, productive discussions and certainly ISBER’s first official chapter seems to be off to a very good start.

To start off the conference we had an opening reception. The conference gala dinner was held at La Nautique, a floating restaurant in Marseille’s Vieux Port. Great food and wine and everybody seemed to enjoy the occasion. At the end of the conference there was an optional wine tasting trip to the nearby Cassis vineyards.

Finally, the conference organisers would like to thank local sponsors for their generous support, including: Cancéropôle Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur (Cancéropôle PACA), the University of Aix-Marseille, the City of Marseille, the “Conseil Général 13” and the PACA Regional Authority. Thank you also to our Gold Sponsors: Sysmex, Cryo Bio Systems and MVE Chart; and to our Silver Sponsors: Hamilton, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Titian Software, Vitrosoft, Illumina and Brooks Life Science Systems.
Development of a Global Certification Program for Biorepository Technical Professionals

Introduction

Currently technical staff for biorepositories come to their work with a variety of educational and professional experiences. Some begin having completed a baccalaureate program with laboratory experience while others have acquired their knowledge of biorepository operations through years of experience working in a Biobank without having initiated formal coursework at a university. Inconsistent recognition of the value of the contributions made by biobank technical staff has in many cases led to lower salaries and higher turnover, making it challenging for specimen repositories to consistently operate efficiently and to guarantee that only the highest quality specimens are available for research.

In recent years several excellent educational courses have been developed to address the need for substantive training in a number of areas relating to effective biorepository operations, such as specimen tracking, shipping, quality assurance and others. In addition to these courses, ISBER offers a variety of courses and workshops as a part of its Annual Meeting. In spite of the value of these courses, access to them is not always possible for repository technicians due to limited funding and other circumstances that may make participation difficult. In order to begin to address this issue, ISBER has created a new, reduced registration category for repository technicians who desire to attend the 2012 Annual Meeting.

In addition to these important educational initiatives, ISBER recognizes that a need exists for broadly available, consistent education and training opportunities for repository technicians. The training will ensure that those who desire it can have access to a body of knowledge that will support their understanding of successful strategies for supporting the collection, processing, storage and dissemination of high quality biospecimens for research. To this aim, the Society is partnering with the Board of Certification of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) to explore the feasibility of developing what is being called a Certification Program for Repository Technicians. Successful participants in the program will be certified for their acquisition of knowledge essential to repository operations.

About the Certification of Repository Technicians Program

As was mentioned above, the goals for the program are to:

- Improve the consistency in operations by increasing the number of staff trained in effective process for operating banks;
- Create opportunities to expand the depth of knowledge for particular biobanks by providing them access to a pool of candidates that are educated regarding state-of-the-art repository practices;
- Enhance interest in the selection of repository technical work as a career;
- Improve the perceived value of certified technicians among stake holders at the repository;
- Help reduce turnover at repositories

The program, as it is currently envisioned, will be designed for individuals with a defined educational background, based on a scientific discipline in the life sciences with laboratory experience, and with some actual work experience in a repository or biobank. For those individuals who have not obtained a university degree, work experience commensurate with educational experience is expected to be allowed. Exact criteria for those who are eligible to sit for the exam are currently under development.

This program will be “educational” in nature and will assess the participant’s comprehension of strategies needed to implement effective biobanking operations. While ISBER’s Best Practices (http://www.isber.org/bp/index.cfm) have been created to ensure that repositories have effective systems in place for operating repositories, the Certification Program for Repository Technicians, will help participants understand what goes into the development of those systems so that technicians can successfully contribute to their implementation in the repositories in which they work. The questions for the exams will be based on subject material presented in the 3rd edition of ISBER’s Best Practices, which is currently in the final stages of preparation and is expected to be released within the next six months.

Those sitting for the exam will be expected to have participated in educational training activities that are being developed to increase the likelihood of successful passage of the certification examination. Modules encompassing the subject material will be created by subject matter experts and will be developed simultaneously with the creation of examination questions to ensure consistency.

About ASCP

ISBER has chosen to partner with the Board of Certification (BOC) of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) for a variety of reasons. The BOC has a rich history of developing similar programs for laboratory professional globally, offering support in the arenas of test development and examination oversight, as well as in providing proctored testing environment in many countries around the globe. In addition, the BOC will assume responsibility for the administration of the program, easing the need for additional staffing to manage the program within ISBER itself.

Next Steps

On October 24, 2011 ISBER was officially notified by the BOC of its interest in partnering with ISBER on this program and together, ISBER and the ASCP BOC will convene an experts’ working group comprised of individuals from the BOC Examination Oversight Committee and subject matter experts from ISBER. Additional market research may be performed to further define the goals of the program that will contain questions specifically targeted to a credentialing examination.

Karen E. Pitt, PhD
Special Assistant for Biological Resources, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute Chair, ISBER Certification for Repository Technicians (CRT) Task Force

The article “Development of a Global Certification Program for Biorepository Technical Professionals” is excerpted from the “ISBER Corner” of the February 2012 issue of Biopreservation and Biobanking
How Biomātrica Built a Better Mousetrap

Existing Problem
The advancement of technologies to assess human genetic variation in a high-throughput, high resolution manner has enabled scientists to perform extensive studies on the role of genetic mutations and structural changes linked to various diseases. Genomic DNA or RNA derived from blood and saliva are common sources for these studies. However, better upstream processes to collect, stabilize, and ship blood and saliva samples at ambient temperatures are needed for the success of any downstream functional assays.

Suggested Solutions
Whole Blood DNA preservation: Biomātrica now offers whole blood DNA stabilization at point of collection in plastic, sterile, evacuated tubes – DNAgard® Blood Tubes. The preservative rapidly permeates cellular structures and membranes to stabilize and protect genomic DNA in whole blood samples for genetic analysis.

Whole blood DNA/RNA stabilization: Genomic and mitochondrial DNA and gene expression profiles from blood samples are increasingly being used to diagnose specific diseases, monitor disease progression, and to assess patient responses to medical treatment. For an effective use of these analytes, samples collected must reliably preserve total RNA and DNA profiles which are threatened by nucleolytic attack, oxidative damage, and hydrolysis. Such damage can severely disrupt genotyping and DNA sequencing efforts. Transcription profiles are highly dynamic and can change rapidly during and after blood collection using current methods, potentially affecting interpretation of the expression analysis. Biomātrica’s new DRgard® Blood Tubes offer ambient-preservation of RNA transcripts in whole blood for up to two weeks with a performance equal to preservation at -80 °C. In addition to RNA preservation, the reagent also stabilizes genomic DNA for genetic analysis of patients or study participants.

Saliva Collection Kit: With the many drawbacks to blood collection (e.g., high costs, potential for infection, and sample quality degradation), other sources for nucleic acid isolation and analysis as a corollary to disease diagnostics/treatment now include saliva, buccal cells, and swabs. These options avoid the highly invasive and high cost of blood draws, stabilization, shipping, and storage while offering a reliable quality of DNA (or RNA) to enable healthcare and biomedical researchers to evaluate underlying genetic causation of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Biomātrica’s saliva preservative, offered as a collection kit, is designed for instant stabilization of DNA in saliva at the point of collection for these purposes.

Long-term DNA stabilization: The quality impact due to repeated freeze-thaws of frozen DNA samples can be conveniently overcome with ambient temperature-based DNA stabilizer. Where refrigeration is a must-have, a new DNA stabilizer to be introduced shortly will permit cold storage of preserved DNA samples, and will allow repeated freeze-thaw cycles without any impact on DNA quality. This flexibility offers the option of storing DNA samples either frozen or at ambient condition with the same preservative, and without worrying about sample degradation.

Taylor-Wharton Tanks Featured in the Movie Contagion
When the producers of the movie Contagion needed authentic lab storage tanks to make the lab scenes seem realistic, they turned to Taylor-Wharton Cryogenics, head-quartered in Theodore, Alabama, with international facilities in Australia, China, Malaysia, Germany, and Slovakia.

Released in September 2011, the plot of Contagion revolves around a deadly virus and scientists’ quest to stop the virus and save millions of lives. As the fast-moving pandemic grows, the worldwide medical community races to find a cure and control the panic that is spreading throughout the world. A-list actors and actresses of the movie include Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Winslet, Laurence Fishburne, Elliot Gould, Marion Cotillard, and Jude Law.

In June of this year Taylor-Wharton Cryogenics introduced the LABS-94K tank for large capacity storage. Designed to hold 94,200 vials, this unit was built with an efficient inventory design system, which is maximized for 100 cell boxes.

Andy Pazahanick, newly-appointed General Manager of the CryoScience Unit, adds, “We know how important the research is that many of our customers are conducting and we are pleased to offer this LABS unit and other models in the line. We are also very pleased to be new members of ISBER and look forward to meeting many of you at ISBER 2012 in Vancouver,” Pazahanick says. “Make sure you stop by our booth to say hello. We’d be happy to show you our complete product line.”

In June of this year Taylor-Wharton representatives were contacted again by a major film producer and asked to provide storage units for the next Bourne 4 movie currently slated for a 2012 release. But, that’s all we’ll say for now… we won’t tell you the names of any of the stars or the plot of this next movie!

Sara Gwin
Marketing Coordinator
Taylor-Wharton Cryogenics
Smart Moves

Cathie Miller, PhD Appointed Global Product Manager for Wheaton Industries’ Biobanking Solutions Line.

Wheaton Industries, the company that designs and delivers today’s most innovative solutions for laboratory research, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Cathie Miller as the Global Product Manager for the Biobanking Solutions Line.

Dr. Miller is a well-respected scientist with more than 20 years’ experience in the fields of cancer therapeutics, virology, immunology and diabetes. She brings with her a vast knowledge of cryopreservation techniques that will aid in the development of the Wheaton CryoFeed (www.cryofeed.com), an online community of biobank users offering discussions and solutions for users at all levels. After beginning her research career at the University of Michigan, Dr. Miller received her PhD at the University of Louisville School of Medicine before completing her post-doctoral fellowship at the Wistar Institute and the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Miller also served as a Senior Staff Scientist at the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center, Henry Ford Health System. Most recently, Dr. Miller was Director of the Human Biological Data Interchange, a biorepository for Type 1 Diabetes and associated disorders.

Dr. Miller will be instrumental in providing biobank users with the expertise and guidance necessary for Wheaton Industries to partner with you on your biobanking endeavors. We understand that the banking of biospecimens is the foundation for future research and development, and that proper storage, tracking, tracing and data management ensures the future of your life’s work. Wheaton is here to partner with you, because it’s our life’s work too.

Daniel Burgess, Director of Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs at Fisher BioServices

Fisher BioServices (an ISBER Platinum Partner) welcomed Daniel Burgess as the new Director of Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs. Dan is a lifelong learner with 22 years of experience in the field of audit, quality systems, compliance and education; studying the practical application of standards and communications, their impact on quality with support through education and audit activities, all the while focused on the customer. He is recognized as a Fellow of Research Quality Assurance (FROA) through the British Association of Research Quality Assurance (BARQA) and as an innovator within the compliance sector, winning awards for customer focused communications, instructional design and education. Dan brings a unique perspective to quality systems within a regulated environment and is enjoying his new journey with Fisher BioServices.

ISBER Members Present Genetic Alliance Webinar - “Demystifying the IRB”

On December 7, ISBER members Marianna Bledsoe, Senior Program Manager, Department of Veterans Affairs and Liz Horn, Director, Genetic Alliance Registry & BioBank, along with Susan Brown Trinidad, Research Scientist, University of Washington, provided practical strategies for working in partnership with your IRB, such as engaging your IRB early and often. The panelists also reviewed how to write an informative biorepository research protocol and provided an update on relevant policy developments in the U.S. The Demystifying the IRB webinar archive is now available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTgXKezVPSE&feature=youtu.be.

Editor’s Corner

(Continued from page 1)

in biorepositories and things like “glass transitions,” I had compartmentalized in a different part of my brain using LOX for rockets and LHe2 and LAr2 for all those mass spectrometers we had in my laboratory division at CDC. Anyone who’d like to learn more about an essential topic for the biorepository world, can contact john@vandore.com for more information.

I hope that everyone has seen this excellent new article by Salvaterra, et al, in the latest issue of Biopreservation and Biobanking: “Pediatric Biobanking: A Pilot Qualitative Surveys of Practices, Rules, and Researcher Opinions in 10 European Countries.” It’s a must-read for our ISBER Rare Diseases Working Group, as well as for any biorepository groups planning to work with pediatric populations as a resource for biospecimens.

Best wishes to all for a really great New Year,

Elaine Gunter
ISBER Newsletter Editor

ISBER Corporate Partnerships

Highlighting your products and services to the international specimen repository community!

Corporate Partnerships are designed to provide ISBER member organizations additional high-visibility opportunities to highlight their company, products and services at the Annual Meeting and on the ISBER website.

Partnerships provide unparalleled opportunities to connect with professionals in the specimen collection and storage industry in domestic and international markets.

www.isber.org/CP
Mincom Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank, Brisbane Australia

The Mincom Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank was founded in 2007, and is part of the Wesley Research Institute (WRI) within The Wesley Hospital. This purpose-built research facility was established to provide a diverse collection of ethically-obtained tissue specimens for biomedical research. The Tissue Bank collects and stores tissue samples, blood, and related clinical data from consenting patients at The Wesley Hospital and makes these specimens and clinical data available to ethically approved medical researchers.

The Mincom Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank is the largest facility of its kind in Queensland, Australia. It is a state-of-the-art biorepository of human tissue and blood. The facility incorporates a freezer room, laboratory, data processing, and administration areas. The freezer room contains equipment for both vapor-phase liquid nitrogen and -80 °C storage. This equipment is also centrally monitored to prevent material losses. The laboratory includes blood and tissue processing equipment and biohazard cabinets. The Tissue Bank is also able to provide high-resolution imaging of pathology specimens to researchers through a specialised device known as a ScanScope. The Tissue Bank has the capacity to store over 178,000 specimens.

Emma Raymond, BAppSci, is the Mincom WRI Tissue Bank Manager, joining the Senior Management Team in July 2011. She graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Biological Sciences. Emma brings a broad knowledge of Pathology and an extensive background in Histology to WRI, and her colleagues are Rachel Newman and Kylie Mapledoram.

In a situation that many of us at ISBER can relate to, Emma says: “We are a quite unknown tissue bank, just in its beginnings. We had to create SOPs and systems, build new relationships within the Wesley Hospital, and generally start our operation from scratch. We have been working tirelessly to expand our range of samples, and also the amount we have banked, but we have currently increased our collections by 200% in just 5 months!”

Looking for a New Job?

Job Seekers
- Post an Anonymous Resume
- View Jobs
- Personal Job Alert
- Create Jobseeker Account
- Access Your Jobseeker Account

Employers/Recruiters
- View the Resumes
- Post a Job
- Products/Pricing
- Create Employer Account
- Access Your Employer Account

www.BioBankingJobs.com
Get Involved...Join an ISBER Working Group!

www.isber.org/wg/

ISBER Working Groups are organized around timely, challenging issues relating to biobanking. They are composed of individuals with expertise and experience in the subject areas and who are committed to producing outcomes to the discipline of biobanking.

Current Working Groups

- Automated Repositories
- Biospecimen Science
- Clinical Biobanking
- Environmental Biospecimen
- Informatics
- Informed Consent Procedures for the Collection of Biospecimens
- International Repository Locator
- Pharma-Academia
- Rare Diseases
- Rights to and Control of Human Tissue Samples

Contact information for ISBER Working Group Organizers and complete details about issues currently being addressed by these groups is available on the ISBER Website.

International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories
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Join us for the
Inaugural ISBER 5K Fun Run
to Benefit the ISBER Global Expansion Fund

Register now to participate in the Inaugural ISBER 5K Fun Run to be held in conjunction with the ISBER 2012 Annual Meeting & Exhibits in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. This fun run will be held on Thursday, May 17th and will take participants on scenic route through beautiful Vancouver. All proceeds to benefit the ISBER Global Expansion fund which supports ISBER’s efforts to increase the involvement and membership of researchers worldwide. The Global Expansion Fund is the primary support of the ISBER Travel Award which provides travel support for individuals from emerging countries to attend the ISBER Annual Meeting.

To participate, register when you register to attend the Annual Meeting or you can visit:

www.isber.org/5K

Interested in having your company listed as a supporter of this event? Contact Laurie Menser, Director of Marketing and Development (lmenser@asip.org) to see how you can show your support!