



## ISBER Elections Candidate Statement

### President-Elect

### Cassandra Griffin, BA, BBMS, MPH

Dear ISBER Colleagues,

I am humbled to approach you as a candidate to serve our organisation.

As a former Vice-President and President of the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association (ABNA) I bring hands on experience in leading and managing all aspects of a professional society – driven by a passion for collaboration. I have a record of operational success and a dedicated focus on the implementation and realisation of strategic imperatives. I believe the future of ISBER can be guided by a synergy of past legacy and future innovation, and my leadership will unite respect for existing organisational precedent with an appetite for change and growth. The impending launch of our strategic plan presents an exciting opportunity for progress and innovation. The implementation of this plan and the transition from strategic imperative to tangible outcome must be guided by consideration of the global biobanking ecosystem and grounded in reflexive consideration of our members survey data.

Our ISBER, reflective of our membership – dynamic, relevant and a truly global organisation.

During my two-year presidency of ABNA, I was privileged to lead a committee and launch a suite of new initiatives including an Annual Seminar Series, Emerging Leaders Scholarship, Excellence Award, New Website and an Australasian Specimen Locator. Under my leadership, ABNA experienced significant growth and diversification, increasing our membership in the veterinarian, botanical, agricultural, museum and data banking fields. With growth comes change and often challenging decisions, but managed correctly and under decisive leadership, uncertainty can translate to opportunity. In recognition of this growth, I led the committee to reinvest in our community – conceptualising and launching special interest groups and increasing our operational capacity by expanding the ABNA committee through dedicated specialist roles.

Dynamic change inspired by, and inspiring, dynamic growth.

ISBER's greatest strength is its membership. We are in a unique position to unite, support, educate and to collaborate. I attended an ISBER Annual Meeting shortly after accepting a biorepository leadership role. As a newly minted biobanker I was green and eager to learn. ISBER opened its arms and delivered on its mission – providing mentors, resources and support. It served as a welcoming community who championed best practice and innovation that led to meaningful impact. I have seen this culture demonstrated consistently in the many years since, and it has driven me to embody these values through my leadership as program co-chair for the 2024 Annual Meeting, my role on the annual meeting scientific task forces for 2023 and 2025, as a guest editor for the 2024 Australasian 'Bio' Special Issue and in my promotion of ISBER within my regional community. I am proud to belong to ISBER.



As an experienced leader of a rapidly expanding biobank in regional Australia, I have built my career on the ability to form and nurture partnerships in multi-disciplinary environments. Great things can be achieved when stakeholders are united and I say this as someone who uses collaboration, biobanking acumen and strategic innovation to make vision a reality. In 2018, our biorepository was a fully grant funded project. Under my leadership, in 2023 we reached full operational cost-recovery. A self-sustaining partnership of stakeholders.

ISBER is built on a culture of partnerships. This is our legacy and our path to a prosperous future.

Our community celebrates diversity and has built crucial partnerships across academia, agency and industry. I will perpetuate this, employing strategic leadership, heart and, for those who know me – boundless energy! As a leader I will strive for operational excellence, I will listen, and I will advocate for equity in representation to ensure a united, global impact for ISBER.

With Warmest Regards,



Cassandra Griffin