



ISBER Elections Candidate Statement

President-Elect

William “Billy” Schleif

ISBER has recently celebrated its 25th anniversary as a global hallmark for biobanking networking and knowledge sharing. It continues to evolve with a diverse and growing membership, now representing 59 countries, and its landmark “Best Practices” available in many languages. I have been an active member for about half of ISBER’s existence and have benefited distinctly from the numerous colleagues who have freely shared their expertise and mentorship via its many conferences, webinars, forum conversations, best practice contributions, and trainings. Such events represent the best of ISBER, and it will continue to thrive from sustained innovation and leadership from an engaged membership.

It is on this note that I feel strongest, and if elected President-Elect, will work earnestly to strengthen the ISBER membership through inclusion and education. As a volunteer for many past ISBER communities and as a current BOD member, I am deeply invested in the many positive ways ISBER has positioned itself to collaborate with regional networks and partners to promote more regional events, as we’ve enjoyed in recent years in Spain, the U.S., Argentina, and S. Africa. ISBER should continue to uphold its responsibility on the world stage too – with such opportunities as the development of the Global Biobanking Week and the global Congress refreshment each year - ISBER can represent biobankers from all over, while sharpening its ability to respond to emerging global needs.

It is my goal to enhance these aspects of our organization as we face new challenges and opportunities in the years ahead:

- Strengthen regional partnerships and collaborations
- Enhance ambassador and mentoring programs
- Improve biobanking recognition in interdisciplinary fields

These are key emphasis points that we can leverage to bring in new membership from all areas of the world, improve the depth of our biospecimen science programs, and diversify our educational platforms.