



International **Biospecimen Summit**

October 28-30, 2026
TORONTO, CANADA

PROGRAM



In partnership with:



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ISBER and UHN would like to thank and acknowledge the following organizations for their generous support at the 2026 International Biospecimen Summit.



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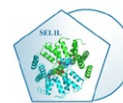
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Sponsors and Exhibitors	2
• General Information	5
• Program Planning Task Force Members	6
• Program	7
• Session Speakers/Presentations	12
• Oral Abstracts Presentation Schedule	19
• List of Poster Abstracts	20
• Venue Map and Exhibitor Listing	23
• Exhibitors	24

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Coffee at sunrise, overlooking the ocean.
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with your fellow biobanking colleagues.

Three days of learning, collaboration, and connection
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together biobank and biorepository leaders, researchers,
industry partners, and innovators from around the world
to share practical insights, spark new collaborations, and
shape what's next in biobanking.

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call for submissions at:

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San Diego **USA**
MAY 4-6, 2027

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE VENUE

Oct. 28 Workshops & Reception Day: Hockey Hall of Fame, 30 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M5E 1X8

October 29 & 30: The Conference Centre at the University of Toronto, 89 Chestnut St, Toronto, ON M5G 1R1

CONFERENCE HOTEL

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Toronto Downtown
108 Chestnut Street, Toronto, Ontario
M5G1R3, Canada

REGISTRATION HOURS

- **Oct. 28:** 2:00pm – 6:30pm (Hockey Hall of Fame)
- **Oct. 29:** 7:30am – 4:00pm (2nd Floor Foyer, The Conference Centre at the University of Toronto)
- **Oct. 30:** 8:00am – 2:30pm (2nd Floor Foyer, The Conference Centre at the University of Toronto)

SPEAKER SERVICES HOURS

Carlton Room, The Conference Centre at the University of Toronto

- **Oct. 29:** 7:00am - 4:00pm
- **Oct. 30:** 7:00am - 4:00pm

EXHIBIT HOURS

- **Oct. 29:** 10:00am - 5:00pm
- **Oct. 30:** 9:00am - 4:00pm

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **Poster Set-up:** Oct. 29 7:30am – 9:00am
- **Presentation Time:** Oct. 30 10:30am – 11:00am and 2:45pm – 3:15pm
- **Poster Takedown:** Oct. 30 3:15pm – 5:00pm

MOBILE APP

The meeting app is available for download in the iOS and Android App stores! Download the app to access all of the important information you'll need while onsite, including easy access to the program, session details, exhibitor listing, and more!

Follow the instructions below to download the Meeting App:

Step 1: Scan the QR code.

Step 2: Download the Pheedloop Go App from the Apple or Android App Stores.

Step 3: Click the link from your Pheedloop welcome email to access the event.

OR: Enter your registration email into the app and provide the Pheedloop login code sent to your email.

WIFI INFORMATION at the Conference Centre at the University of Toronto

Network: UofT

Username: chestnut01

Password: 1.Conference01

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

All attendees will receive a certificate of attendance after completing the meeting evaluation. A link to the evaluation will be sent out via email following the meeting.

PROGRAM PLANNING TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Heidi Wagner (Co-chair)

University Health Network
Toronto, Canada

Dianne Chadwick (Co-chair)

ISBER
Toronto, Canada

Aurora Mejia

University Health Network
Toronto, Canada

Andrew Bondoc

The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Canada

Ayat Salman

Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, Canada

Billy Schleif

Johns Hopkins All Children's Pediatric Biorepository
Florida, USA

Gouri Mahajan

Mayo Clinic Arizona
Arizona, USA

Jelani Clarke

AminoChain
Montreal, Canada

Katarina Maksimovic

Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR)
Toronto, Canada

Monique Albert

Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR)
Toronto, Canada

Marcelo Cuesta

University Health Network
Toronto, Canada

Michael BeGora

University Health Network
Toronto, Canada

Tamsin Tarling

Post Covid Recovery Clinic Biobank @ The University of British
Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Thank you to our abstract reviewers!

Cindy Long, Tamsin Tarling, Billy Schleif, Mandy Riffel, Aurora Mejia, Cheryl Michels, Marianne Henderson, Koh Furuta, Asim Farooq, Quynh Vantu, Nida Jawaid, Sara Bowen, Cari Lichtman, Daniel Alba-Olano, Marcelo Cuesta, Mandile Thobela, Katarina Maksimovic, Anna Michalska-Falkowska, Punima Singh, Phillis Babirye, Tatyana Matveeva, Gouri Mahajan, Evelyn Santana, Adelina Ovcharenko

PROGRAM

WORKSHOPS & RECEPTION AT HOCKEY HALL OF FAME | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

Please note this day is separately ticketed from the other conference days.

Workshop 1: Building the AI-Ready Research Ecosystem: Clinical Data, Biobanks, Cloud and Generative AI **[CONCURRENT]**

2:30pm – 5:30pm | **TSN Theatre**

- Gouri Mahajan, Mayo Clinic Arizona
- Imon Banerjee, Mayo Clinic Arizona
- Kelly Lane, UHN Toronto
- Julia Publicover, UHN Toronto
- **Moderators: Elizabeth Keller and Hailey D'Silva, Amazon Web Services**

Biobanks are evolving from repositories of biospecimens into critical components of increasingly complex research ecosystems linking clinical, pathology, genomic, imaging and longitudinal outcome data. At the same time, cloud infrastructure, multimodal analytics and generative AI are creating entirely new possibilities for how researchers discover, interrogate and use these resources.

But what does an AI-ready research ecosystem actually require?

This highly interactive workshop brings together UHN Techna and the UHN AI Hub, Mayo Clinic and AWS to explore how leading institutions are connecting clinical, biospecimen and multimodal data to enable next-generation research.

Through two real-world institutional case studies, a live LLM/RAG demonstration, rapid-fire discussion and an interactive AWS cloud-credit challenge, participants will examine the practical decisions behind building AI-ready research infrastructure: what should be integrated, what should remain distributed, where centralized, federated and hybrid models make sense, how data quality and governance affect AI readiness, and where institutions should invest limited resources.

Participants will move from observing established approaches to making the decisions themselves and will leave with a practical framework for assessing readiness across data, technology, governance, people and operating model, value and sustainability.

Workshop 2: Accelerating Biotech Access to Biobanks: From Sample Sourcing to Pilot Validation and Fundraising Readiness **[CONCURRENT]**

2:30pm – 5:30pm | **Tim Horton Theatre**

- Heidi Wagner, UHN Toronto
- Kenneth To, ViewsML
- Robby Spring, Patient advocate
- Riley Cox, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
- Terence O'Keeffe, Biobase
- Mike Bishop, illumiSonics
- Shalini Gupta, Asima Health
- **Moderator: Mathew Platt, Creative Destruction Lab Toronto**

Startups developing diagnostics, biomarkers, AI tools, therapeutics, digital pathology platforms, and precision oncology technologies often require access to high-quality biospecimens and associated clinical data to generate early validation evidence. However, sourcing biobank samples can be difficult to navigate, particularly when companies are balancing scientific validation, fundraising timelines, investor diligence, and biobank regulatory and legal requirements including ethics review, consent constraints, material transfer agreements, data access, cost recovery, and institutional governance.

At the same time, biobanks and research institutions need responsible access models that protect participant trust, respect consent limitations, support appropriate sample and data stewardship, recover operational costs, and ensure that scarce biospecimen resources are used for high-value translational impact.

This workshop will position biobanks as critical translational research infrastructure and explore how responsible, transparent, and governance-aligned access pathways can help biotech startups generate credible validation evidence using high-quality biospecimens and linked clinical data.

The session will be practical and outcome-focused. CDL will moderate a panel and two plenary working sessions in which the full audience will build practical readiness checklists for startups and academic biobanks in real time.

WORKSHOPS & RECEPTION AT HOCKEY HALL OF FAME | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

Please note this day is separately ticketed from the other conference days.

Networking Reception @ the Hockey Hall of Fame | 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Continue the conversation at our exclusive evening networking reception at the Hockey Hall of Fame on the evening of October 28. This ticketed event offers a relaxed setting to connect with fellow conference attendees and industry leaders while enjoying one of Canada's most iconic venues.

CONFERENCE DAY – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

7:00am – 4:00pm *Speaker Services | Carlton Room*

7:30am – 4:00pm *Registration | 2nd Floor Foyer*

8:30am – 9:00am **Industry Innovation Breakfast Flash Talks**
Ballroom East-Centre
Breakfast will be served starting at 8:00am.



HAMILTON

Welcome & Opening Remarks | Ballroom East-Centre

- 9:00am – 9:15am
- Brad Wouters, UHN Toronto
 - Stella Somiari, ISBER
 - Neil Fleshner, UHN Toronto

Symposium 1 – Building the Data Foundation for Precision Medicine

Ballroom East-Centre

- 9:15am – 10:15am
- Keynote Speaker:**
- Benjamin Haibe-Kains, UHN Toronto
 - **Moderator:** Neil Fleshner, UHN Toronto

10:15am – 10:45am *Health Break & Networking | Exhibit Hall (Ballroom West)*

Symposium 2 – From Freezers to Data Ecosystems: What Makes a Biobank Successful and Sustainable?

Ballroom East-Centre

Speakers:

- Ankit Malhotra, Amazon Web Services
- Trevor Pugh, UHN Toronto
- Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, University of Montreal
- Angela Crawley, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- Razan Humeida, AstraZeneca
- **Moderator:** Jens Habermann, BBMRI-ERIC

Biobanks have traditionally been measured by the size and quality of their physical collections. As research shifts toward genomics, multimodal data, AI and increasingly distributed research environments, the definition of a valuable and sustainable biobank is changing.

This 90-minute interactive session will explore a broader question:

10:45am – 12:15pm

What makes a biobank valuable, sustainable and future-ready—and who gets to define that value?

Rather than a traditional panel, the session will use a fictional mature biobank case to force practical decisions about:

- whether to continue collecting;
- how to increase utilization;
- where to invest limited resources;
- the balance between physical specimens and data infrastructure;
- genomics and multimodal data;
- researcher and industry access;
- equity, representation and community value;
- sustainability and operating models;
- the role of networks and shared infrastructure; and
- how biobank impact should actually be measured.

The objective is not to define one model of a “successful” biobank. It is to help participants think more critically about what their biobank should become next.

12:15pm – 1:15pm

Lunch

Oral Abstract Presentations | Ballroom East-Centre

1:15pm – 3:15pm

- **Moderator:** Aurora Mejia, UHN Toronto

3:15pm – 3:45pm *Health Break & Networking | Exhibit Hall (Ballroom West)*

Symposium 3 – The Accreditation Decision: Choosing the Right Framework for Quality, Cost, Impact and Equity in Biobanking

Ballroom East-Centre

Speakers:

- Kathi Shea, Azenta Life Sciences
- Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, University of Montreal
- Ayat Salman, Université de Sherbrooke
- **Moderator:** Monique Albert, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

3:45pm – 5:15pm

Accreditation can strengthen quality, credibility and research readiness—but when is it the right investment?

This interactive session will explore how biobanks can choose the quality pathway that best fits their stage, resources and goals. Through live polling, case-based debate and perspectives spanning CAP, CTRNet, ISO 20387 and global capacity-building approaches, panelists will examine trade-offs across quality, cost, impact, interoperability and equity.

Participants will leave with a practical framework to assess quality maturity and identify the next best step—whether accreditation, certification, QMS strengthening or a staged approach.

5:30pm – 6:30pm **Optional: UHN/OICR Site Visit (Off-site)** – Pre-registration required

CONFERENCE DAY – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

7:00am – 4:00pm *Speaker Services | Carlton Room*

8:00am – 2:30pm *Registration | 2nd Floor Foyer*
Breakfast will be served 8:00am – 9:00am.

9:00am – 9:10am **Welcome & Day 1 Recap | Ballroom East-Centre**

- Billy Schleif, ISBER & Heidi Wagner, UHN Toronto

Symposium 4 – Biobanks as Cornerstones: Trailblazing the Future of Biomedical Research and Health Care

Ballroom East-Centre

9:10am – 10:00am

Keynote Speaker:

- Karine Sargsyan, IBD Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Moderators:** Dianne Chadwick, ISBER and Heidi Wagner, UHN Toronto

10:00am – 10:30am *Health Break & Networking | Exhibit Hall (Ballroom West)*

10:30am – 11:00am **Poster Presentations (Part I) | Giovanni Room**

Symposium 5 – From Biospecimens to Algorithms: How Biobanks Enable the Development and Validation of Emerging AI Models

Ballroom East-Centre

Speakers:

- Ioannis Prassas, UHN Toronto
- Lincoln Stein, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
- Kenneth To, ViewsML
- Ellyn Winters-Robinson, AskEllyn.ai
- Moderator:** Benjamin Haibe-Kains, UHN Toronto

11:00am – 12:15pm

As AI research increasingly depends on high-quality, clinically linked and multimodal data, biobanks have an expanding role beyond sample collection and storage.

This interactive session will examine what biobanks need to do differently to support AI development and validation, including how specimens should be collected, annotated, linked to clinical and molecular data, governed, standardized and made accessible for research.

The discussion will explore what makes a biobank “AI-ready,” how biobanks can balance cohort size with data depth and representation, and how training and independent validation resources should differ.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how biobanks can evolve their collections, data infrastructure and access models to remain valuable in an AI-driven research environment.

12:15pm – 1:00pm *Lunch*

Symposium 6 – Hot Topics (Part 1)

Ballroom East-Centre

Moderator: Dianne Chadwick, ISBER

The Future of Connected Biobanking

Building a Connected Provincial Biobanking Ecosystem

- Katarina Maksimovic, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Connecting Biobanks to Global Networks

- Jens Habermann, BBMRI-ERIC

From Archive to Access: How AI and Connected Networks Unlock the Specimens We Already Have

- Terence O’Keeffe, Biobase

1:00pm– 2:15pm

2:15pm – 2:45pm *Health Break & Networking | Exhibit Hall (Ballroom West)*

2:45pm – 3:15pm **Poster Presentations (Part 2) | Giovanni Room**

Symposium 6 – Hot Topics (Part 2)

Ballroom East-Centre

Moderator: Dianne Chadwick, ISBER

Beyond Human Biobanking

Banking for Biodiversity: Building Canada’s Wildlife Cryobank

- Paula Mackie, Toronto Zoo

Data Sharing, Privacy & Emerging Technologies

Balancing Participant Privacy and Research Advancement: Emerging Issues

- Howard Simkevitz, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

How can we enable data sharing that accelerates research while maintaining participant privacy and trust? This session will explore the impact of emerging trends, including AI, international data sharing, and genomic data, and discuss practical approaches to balancing innovation, ethics, and data governance. Attendees will share perspectives on privacy-preserving strategies that support collaboration, scientific discovery, and responsible stewardship of participant data.

From Participation to Partnership

How Policy Is Reshaping Expectations of What Biobanks Owe Participants

- Marianna Bledsoe, Biopreservation & Biobanking

As policy and participant expectations evolve, biobanks are being challenged to move beyond consent and toward ongoing participant engagement. This session will explore emerging trends in transparency, communication, governance, and what biobanks can do now to prepare for a more participant-centered research environment.

3:15pm – 4:30pm

4:30pm – 4:45pm **Poster Award Announcement and Closing Remarks**

SESSION SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday, October 28

Workshop 1 – Building the AI-Ready Research Ecosystem: Clinical Data, Biobanks, Cloud and Generative AI

Gouri Mahajan, Mayo Clinic Arizona

Dr. Gouri Mahajan, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., is the Director of the Mayo Clinic AZ Biorepository and an Assistant Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. An accomplished clinician-scientist with over 25 years of experience spanning basic science, neuroscience, and cancer biology, she specializes in the strategic leadership of population-scale biorepositories. Dr. Mahajan has a proven track record of leadership in streamlining fit-for-purpose models that provide customized biobanking support tailored specifically to the rigorous demands of clinical trials. Dr. Mahajan's expertise centers on developing standardized, high-quality biosample protocols, implementing laboratory automation, and driving genomic biomarker discovery. Highly recognized globally for her contributions to international sample frameworks, she currently serves as a Regional Ambassador for Americas region for the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) and was recently honored with the prestigious ISBER 2026 Special Service Award for her contributions towards biorepository science worldwide.

Imon Banerjee, Mayo Clinic Arizona

Imon Banerjee is an Associate Professor and director of AI innovation Hub at Mayo Clinic Arizona. She is a graduate faculty at Arizona State University. Her research is focused on fairness in AI, multimodal deep learning, and AI translation for digital healthcare. With a deep interest in understanding and mitigating biases in AI systems, Imon works at the intersection of adversarial, causal, and contrastive learning techniques. Her research explores ways to ensure that AI models are not only accurate but also equitable, addressing concerns related to race, gender, and other demographic factors. She is dedicated to advancing AI technology that can be both innovative and socially responsible, particularly in healthcare and related domains. She is currently leading multiple federal and non-federal multi-institutional

research grants aimed at advancing AI to support digital healthcare solutions.

Kelly Lane, University Health Network (UHN)

Kelly Lane, BSc, MHI, CHE, is a Director at the University Health Network (UHN), who has worked in digital health for over 20 years. Kelly oversees multiple teams and manages the operations of several enterprise initiatives, including UHN's AI Hub and the Cancer Digital Intelligence (CDI) Program. With a strong background in health informatics and project management, Kelly has been instrumental in advancing the integration of innovations and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. Her work focuses on translating emerging AI capabilities into practical, scalable solutions that improve patient care, enhance clinical workflows, and support health system innovation. Kelly is particularly passionate about responsible AI, helping healthcare organizations navigate the opportunities and challenges of AI implementation while ensuring safety, literacy, trust, and measurable impact.

Julia Publicover, University Health Network (UHN)

Julia Publicover, MSc, PMP, is Director of Translational Research and Innovation at the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto. She leads research core services and innovation initiatives across radiological imaging and theranostics, with programs that provide research data infrastructure supporting multicentre imaging trials, AI-enabled research, and emerging digital pathology applications. With a background in medical physics and radioisotope development, Julia focuses on the practical challenges of enabling research through high-quality data, including data governance, privacy, security, and interoperability. She works closely with clinicians, researchers, and industry partners to managing complex research datasets, accelerating scientific discovery while ensuring data is used responsibly, securely, and effectively.

Workshop 2 – Accelerating Biotech Access to Biobanks: From Sample Sourcing to Pilot Validation and Fundraising Readiness

Kenneth To, ViewsML

Kenneth is a serial entrepreneur and life sciences executive with 20+ years of experience spanning management, financing, product commercialization, marketing, and medical affairs. He co-founded Wax-it Histology Services, a successful histopathology CRO, and has co-lead startup equity and debt financings to \$15M. He held commercialization roles at STEMCELL Technologies, and spent over a decade at Eli Lilly leading global strategy, capabilities development, and KOL management for a 500+ medical affairs division. Kenneth holds a PhD in Neuroscience from UBC and an MBA from SFU.

Heidi Wagner, University Health Network (UHN)

Robby Spring, Patient advocate

Robby Spring, MSc, MHSc, is a patient advocate and healthcare strategist who bridges lived experience with science, innovation and health-system decision-making. She brings 15+ years of experience across research, health innovation, commercialization and public affairs, alongside lived experience as a breast cancer survivor and care partner. She holds graduate training in neuroscience and translational research and leads the Patient Contribution Group at Creative Destruction Lab's Cancer Stream.

Riley Cox, Ontario Tumour Bank, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Riley is the Project Manager, Client Accounts at the Ontario Tumour Bank, a program of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. For over 5 years, he has managed all of OTB's client R&D projects and accounts, helping academic and industry investigators from around the world to safely and efficiently obtain the samples and data they need to conduct their life-changing research. He has also helped dozens of health technology ventures in their commercialization strategies by advising founders on value proposition development, pitching techniques and market positioning.

Terence O'Keeffe, Biobase

Terence O'Keeffe is Chief Operating Officer of Biobase, Inc., which connects the pathology archives of hospitals and reference laboratories with biopharma and diagnostics researchers, turning stored tissue,

slides and other biospecimens, along with images and de-identified reports, into research-ready cohorts. He leads operations and commercial delivery, from feasibility review and cohort selection through de-identification, quality control and shipment, and builds the institutional partnerships behind the network. While building Biobase, he supported Pictor Labs, an AI-powered digital pathology company, as a consultant leading commercial operations. He previously headed commercial operations and customer success at Elephas, a precision oncology company, and held strategy and operations roles at Walgreens, Conagra Brands and PwC.

Mike Bishop, illumiSonics

Mike Bishop is COO of illumiSonics, where he leads operations, engineering, and product development for the company's Multi-Laser Imaging (MLI™) technology. Previously, he spent 10 years at Apple, most recently managing a team in the Biophotonics Group. He holds degrees from the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University and numerous patents in optics and sensing.

Thursday, October 29

Symposium 1 – Building the Data Foundation for Precision Medicine

Benjamin Haibe-Kains, University Health Network (UHN)

Dr. Benjamin Haibe-Kains is the Executive AI Scientific Director at the University Health Network, a Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, and a Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto (Canada). He earned his PhD in Bioinformatics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) and pursued postdoctoral training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Harvard School of Public Health (USA) as a Fulbright Scholar.

Precision medicine relies on the ability to transform diverse and rapidly expanding biomedical data into a trusted, scalable, and reusable resource for discovery. In this presentation, I will outline our vision for building a Data Hub that supports cancer early detection, interception, and precision oncology by integrating

clinical, biospecimen, genomic, pathology, radiology, and liquid biopsy data within a unified, interoperable ecosystem. I will discuss the guiding principles behind the design and implementation of the Data Hub, including data standardization, comprehensive machine-readable metadata, rigorous quality control, and FAIR data practices. Together, these elements create datasets that are both AI-ready and research-ready, enabling the development of robust analytical pipelines and trustworthy artificial intelligence models. By establishing a strong data foundation, we aim to accelerate translational research and improve our ability to deliver precision medicine at scale.

Symposium 2 – From Freezers to Data Ecosystems: What Makes a Biobank Successful and Sustainable?

Biobanks have traditionally been measured by the size and quality of their physical collections. As research shifts toward genomics, multimodal data, AI and increasingly distributed research environments, the definition of a valuable and sustainable biobank is changing.

Ankit Malhotra, Amazon Web Services

Ankit Malhotra, PhD, is Global Head of Genomics, at Amazon Web Services, where he advises healthcare/life sciences organizations on the cloud infrastructure required to store, harmonize, and analyze multi-modal biospecimen-linked data — genomic sequences, medical imaging, pathology, and longitudinal clinical records — at population scale. A genomics researcher by training with a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics from the University of Virginia and six years at The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, he brings a practitioner's perspective to the challenges biobanks face on the road to success.

Trevor Pugh, University Health Network (UHN)

Dr. Trevor Pugh, PhD, FACMG is a cancer genomics researcher and board-certified molecular geneticist at the forefront of precision medicine. As holder of the Canada Research Chair in Translational Genomics, he uses genome sequencing to understand causes of cancer, guide treatment of patients, and detect early disease using blood tests. He directs the OICR Genomics Program and the Princess Margaret Genomics Centre, genomics cores that specialize in single cell, cell-free DNA and clinically-accredited genome sequencing. He has contributed to multiple large-scale genomics data-sharing programs.

Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, University of Montreal

Dr. Anne-Marie Mes-Masson obtained her Ph.D. from McGill University and completed post-doctoral training at UCLA. She is a professor in the Department of Medicine at the Université de Montréal. Dr. Mes-Masson is the Associate Director, Basic and Translational Research, at the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM). She is a founding member of the Canadian Tissue Repository network (www.ctrnet.ca) and the Quebec co-lead of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Cancer Center Networks. Dr. Mes-Masson founded and directs the ovarian cancer biobank at the CRCHUM.

Razan Humeida, AstraZeneca

Razan Humeida is the AstraZeneca Biocentre Biobank Lead, responsible for global long-term storage and oversight of human biological samples operations supporting AstraZeneca's R&D sites. She leads strategies

for sample management, global storage, international distribution, automation, and biobank transformation initiatives. With over 15 years of experience in biobanking, biospecimen operations, regulatory compliance, and research infrastructure.

Angela Crawley, Canadian Biobank Alliance (CBA), Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Dr. Angela M. Crawley is a basic scientist specializing in the immunopathogenesis of chronic liver disease and serves as Director of the Canadian Biobank Alliance (CBA). Building on infrastructure established through the Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network, she leads national efforts to advance the sharing of biological materials and health data across Canada. Her work focuses on developing sustainable frameworks that connect biobanks, researchers, public health stakeholders, and industry partners to accelerate health research and preparedness for future public health challenges.

Jens Habermann, BBMRI-ERIC

Professor Jens K. Habermann, M.D., PH.D., is Director General of BBMRI-ERIC since September 2020 and a Professor at the University of Lübeck. He obtained his M.D. training at the Medical University of Lübeck, received his Ph.D. at the Cancer Center Karolinska, and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, NIH. As board certified specialist in human genetics, Prof. Habermann combines clinics, biobanking, and translational (cancer) research to optimise precision medicine.

Symposium 3 – The Accreditation Decision: Choosing the Right Framework for Quality, Cost, Impact and Equity in Biobanking

Kathi Shea, Azenta Life Sciences

Kathi Shea is Chief Client Solutions Officer at Azenta Life Sciences and a former President of ISBER. She served on the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Biorepository Advisory Working Group that developed accreditation standards for biorepositories and on the CAP Biorepository Accreditation Program Committee. With more than 30 years of experience, she has advised government, academic, and pharmaceutical organizations on biorepository operations, quality

systems and cold storage strategies that improve sustainability, operational efficiency, and the preservation of biological assets.

Anne-Marie Mes-Masson, University of Montreal

Dr. Anne-Marie Mes-Masson obtained her Ph.D. from McGill University and completed post-doctoral training at UCLA. She is a professor in the Department of Medicine at the Université de Montréal. Dr. Mes-Masson is the Associate Director, Basic and Translational Research, at the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM). She is a founding member of the Canadian Tissue Repository network (www.ctrnet.ca) and the Quebec co-lead of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Cancer Center Networks. Dr. Mes-Masson founded and directs the ovarian cancer biobank at the CRCHUM.

Ayat Salman, Université de Sherbrooke

Ayat Salman is a biobanking and clinical research specialist in Quebec, Canada. She earned her PhD from McGill University, researching the integration of biobanking into primary care. She previously served as CEO of the Canadian Primary Research Consortium and Operations Director of CPCSSN. She works in the Department of Nursing at Université de Sherbrooke and chaired MC 276 at the Standards Council of Canada. As ESBB Council member from 2018 and President in 2024, she promotes international collaboration, quality assurance, and harmonized biobanking standards worldwide.

Monique Albert, Ontario Hereditary Cancer Research Network, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Monique Albert, MSc, PMP, CCRP is the Senior Program Manager for the Ontario Hereditary Cancer Research Network (OICR). She has experience in the biobanking, health research and pharmaceutical sectors, including as the COO and Director, BIOSCAN at the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics and the Director of the Ontario Tumour Bank (OICR). Ms. Albert served as the ISBER Secretary and Director at Large – Americas on the Board of Directors. She was involved in the early development of CTRNet, and contributed to the TC276 ISO 20387 SCC mirror committee in Canada.

Symposium 4 – Biobanks as Cornerstones: Trailblazing the Future of Biomedical Research and Health Care

*Karine Sargsyan, Cedars Sinai Medical Center/
Cedars Sinai Healthcare University*

Prof. Dr. Sargsyan is internationally recognized for reinventing biobanks as knowledge-machines. As Director of IBD Institute Operations and Scientific Director of OncoBiobank at Cedars-Sinai, she leads the development of biobanking solutions with AI/ML for data harmonization, quality control, and Molecular Twins. As co-leader of MSc Biobanking at MedUni Graz, Head of Digital Medicine & AI at YSMU, and Chair of the Scientific Board at the Center for Molecular Fingerprinting (Nobel Laureate Prof. Ferenc Krausz), she develops predictive preventive medicine.

In the age of fast-paced digital evolution and precision medicine, biobanks serve as pivotal cornerstones propelling the future of biomedical research and health care. This keynote will explore the importance of standardized, high-quality biospecimens, the risks of the shortage, and how these, in connection with standardized clinical and multimodal data ecosystems, build the way for today's and tomorrow's innovation. Find out how human-centric AI and machine learning solutions, in combination with innovative technologies like organoid biobanking or molecular fingerprinting, help to develop predictive analytics, personalized therapies, and preventive health care. With insights into biobanking infrastructure development, quality assurance, international harmonization, and education innovations, this session promises visionary, practical tips for developing sustainable, AI-driven biobank platforms.

Symposium 5 – From Biospecimens to Algorithms: How Biobanks Enable the Development and Validation of Emerging AI Models

From Biospecimens to Algorithms: Building an AI-Ready Cohort for Testicular Cancer Relapse Prediction

Ioannis Prassas, University Health Network (UHN)

Ioannis Prassas is a translational scientist at University Health Network and Assistant Professor at the University

of Toronto. His work spans molecular diagnostics, biomarker discovery, proteomics, digital pathology, and AI. He co-leads UHN's Integrated Diagnostics AI Research Core and serves as Strategic Director for the LMP AI-enabled Digital Pathology Ecosystem, focusing on the development and clinical translation of AI tools for cancer diagnosis, prognostication, and precision medicine.

Patients with Stage I testicular seminoma are commonly managed with surveillance after orchiectomy, yet a subset will later relapse. This presentation will use our ongoing testicular cancer program as a case study in building an AI-ready translational cohort. We have assembled and digitized a large retrospective cohort linked to longitudinal clinical outcomes and are integrating whole-slide histopathology with spatial molecular profiling to identify tissue features associated with relapse. The project highlights key challenges in moving from archived biospecimens to clinically meaningful algorithms: defining appropriate cohorts, establishing reliable endpoints, harmonizing tissue and metadata, and linking molecular signals with histologic patterns. Spatial profiling is used to characterize relapse-associated tumour and microenvironmental biology, while computational pathology models analyse routine H&E images at scale. More broadly, the work illustrates how biobanks can evolve from specimen repositories into integrated data resources for biomarker discovery, AI development, validation and clinical translation.

When Will AI Cure Cancer?

Lincoln Stein, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Dr. Lincoln Stein, MD, PhD, focuses on supporting biomedical research both in Ontario and around the world by making large and complex biological datasets findable, accessible and usable. Prior to joining OICR in 2006, Dr. Stein played an integral role in many large-scale data initiatives at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Genome Center. He led the development of the first physical clone map of the human genome, and ran the data coordinating centre and the data portal for the HapMap Consortium and the Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes Project.

For years the tech leaders in the AI industry have assured us that AI will find a cure for cancer -- any day now. So how is this coming along? There are numerous

reasons that AI isn't going to "cure cancer" any time soon, but there are real reasons to think that the tools and techniques of AI will greatly accelerate human researchers' search for new and effective treatment for this class of disease. In this talk I will walk you through the hype and reality of AI-accelerated cancer research, give examples of real advances in the here and now, and set realistic expectations for the future. In particular, I'll address the critical role that biobanks are already playing in creating the AI-enabled research tools of the future.

From Biospecimens to Biomarker Intelligence: Unlocking More Value from Biobanked Tissue Through Virtual Staining

Kenneth To, ViewsML

Kenneth To, PhD, MBA, is a serial entrepreneur and life sciences executive with 20+ years of experience spanning management, financing, product commercialization, marketing, and medical affairs. He co-founded Wax-it Histology Services, a successful histopathology CRO, and has co-led startup equity and debt financings to \$15M. He held commercialization roles at STEMCELL Technologies, and spent over a decade at Eli Lilly leading global strategy, capabilities development, and KOL management for a 500+ medical affairs division. Kenneth holds a PhD in Neuroscience from UBC and an MBA from SFU.

As biobanks evolve into increasingly data-rich resources, AI creates new opportunities to expand the value of existing tissue collections. This presentation will explore how virtual staining can predict biomarker expression from routinely available H&E images, enabling biobanks to better characterize their collections and screen for biomarker-defined cohorts. These capabilities can reduce unnecessary tissue consumption and physical testing while increasing the research and commercial utility of biobanked tissue.

Ellyn Winters-Robinson, AskEllyn.ai

Ellyn Winters-Robinson is the founder of AskEllyn.ai, the world's first AI companion for people navigating breast cancer. Drawing on her own 2022 diagnosis and treatment, she co-created AskEllyn with technology partner Gambit Technologies to provide free, 24/7 emotional and informational support in more than 50 languages across 100+ countries. AskEllyn is named on Cigna Healthcare's Breast Cancer Community page

and was selected by the City Cancer Challenge (C/Can) as one of 11 digital solutions in its Digital Health Library. Ellyn is also a co-author on two peer-reviewed papers.

Benjamin Haibe-Kains, University Health Network (UHN)

Dr. Benjamin Haibe-Kains is the Executive AI Scientific Director at the University Health Network, a Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, and a Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto (Canada). He earned his PhD in Bioinformatics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) and pursued postdoctoral training at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Harvard School of Public Health (USA) as a Fulbright Scholar.

Symposium 6 – Hot Topics

1 – The Future of Connected Biobanking

Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Biospecimens: The Emerging Role of Biobank Networks, a Case Study of Ontario Biobanks

Katarina Maksimovic, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Katarina Maksimovic, MSc, is the Project Lead for Ontario Biobanks, a cancer-focused biobank network being led by the Ontario Tumour Bank at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Katarina has a background in human genetics, neuroscience, and project management, and holds an MSc. in Molecular Genetics.

High-quality, well-annotated biospecimens are essential for advancing cancer research, yet researchers often face challenges identifying and accessing suitable samples, while biobanks struggle with underutilized collections and sustainability pressures. Biobank networks have emerged as a collaborative solution to improve visibility, accessibility, and utilization of biospecimens and associated data through shared infrastructure, standardized processes, and cross-institutional cooperation. This presentation will explore the evolving role of biobank networks in addressing common challenges faced by both researchers and biobanks. It will provide an overview of existing network models and highlight how coordinated approaches can facilitate

access to biospecimens, support harmonization efforts, and enhance long-term sustainability. Using Ontario Biobanks as a case study, the presentation will describe the development of an oncology-focused network comprising more than 20 biobanks across Ontario. Topics will include governance and working group structures, patient partner engagement, harmonization initiatives, and the development of a federated catalogue and centralized request process.

Connecting Biobanks to Global Networks

Jens Habermann, BBMRI-ERIC

Professor Jens K. Habermann, M.D., PH.D., is Director General of BBMRI-ERIC since September 2020 and a Professor at the University of Lübeck. He obtained his M.D. training at the Medical University of Lübeck, received his Ph.D. at the Cancer Center Karolinska, and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, NIH. As board certified specialist in human genetics, Prof. Habermann combines clinics, biobanking, and translational (cancer) research to optimise precision medicine.

From Archive to Access: How AI and Connected Networks Unlock the Specimens We Already Have

Terence O’Keeffe, Biobase

Terence O’Keeffe is Chief Operating Officer of Biobase, Inc., which connects the pathology archives of hospitals and reference laboratories with biopharma and diagnostics researchers, turning stored tissue, slides and other biospecimens, along with images and de-identified reports, into research-ready cohorts. He leads operations and commercial delivery, from feasibility review and cohort selection through de-identification, quality control and shipment, and builds the institutional partnerships behind the network. While building Biobase, he supported Pictor Labs, an AI-powered digital pathology company, as a consultant leading commercial operations. He previously headed commercial operations and customer success at Elephas, a precision oncology company, and held strategy and operations roles at Walgreens, Conagra Brands and PwC.

2 – Beyond Human Biobanking

Banking for Biodiversity: Building Canada’s

Wildlife Cryobank

Paula Mackie, Toronto Zoo

Paula Mackie, MSc, specializes in reproductive biology and wildlife conservation, focusing on technologies that support species recovery. Her professional background includes roles in wildlife and human reproductive medicine, providing a broad perspective on the application of ARTs across species. She currently oversees operations for the Toronto Zoo’s Gamete Biology and Endocrinology laboratories and manages Canada’s Wildlife Cryobank, advancing cryopreservation and biobanking strategies to conserve genetic diversity and support the long-term recovery of threatened and conservation-reliant species.

Canada’s Wildlife Cryobank at the Toronto Zoo preserves living genetic resources to support wildlife conservation and species recovery. As Canada’s most taxonomically diverse collection of cryopreserved wildlife cells, tissues, and reproductive materials, the Cryobank safeguards genetic diversity and supports the development of conservation technologies. Through collaborations with zoos, aquariums, academic institutions, governments, Indigenous partners, and wildlife organizations, biological materials are collected and preserved from a wide range of species across Canada and beyond. This presentation will provide an overview of the Cryobank’s activities, including sample collection, cryopreservation research, biobanking operations, and partnership development. Examples will highlight how cryobanked materials contribute to research, assisted reproductive technologies, population management, and emerging conservation applications. As biodiversity loss accelerates globally, wildlife cryobanks are becoming an important complement to traditional conservation efforts by preserving genetic resources and maintaining future options for species recovery.

3 – Data Sharing, Privacy & Emerging Technologies

Balancing Participant Privacy and Research Advancement: Emerging Issues

Howard Simkevitz, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Howard Simkevitz, BA, MSPPM, LLB is General Counsel

and Privacy Officer at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. Howard also serves as the legal member of the Research Ethics Board at SickKids Hospital and is a past Chair of the Ontario Bar Association's Privacy Law section. For over a decade, Howard was adjunct faculty at Toronto Metropolitan University where he taught courses in privacy law, information technology law and business law. Howard received his BA from Western University, his MS in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University and his law degree from the University.

The ability to share biospecimens and associated data is fundamental to maximizing the scientific value of biobanks and advancing health research. At the same time, evolving technologies and increasing international collaborations continue to reshape privacy, legal and governance considerations. This presentation will explore emerging issues associated with data sharing, including impacts of artificial intelligence and genomic data.

4 – From Participation to Partnership

From Participation to Partnership: How Policy Is Reshaping Expectations of What Biobanks Owe Participants

Marianna Bledsoe, Biopreservation & Biobanking

Marianna Bledsoe, MA, is Editor-in-Chief of Biopreservation and Biobanking. She has been involved with biobanking for more than 25 years and previously served as Deputy Associate Director of the Clinical Research Policy Analysis and Coordination Program in the NIH Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health. She has presented and published widely on legal, ethical, and policy issues related to biobanking and clinical research. She has participated in ISBER leadership since its inception and served as President of ISBER from 2007 – 2008.

Expectations regarding participant engagement and what biobanks might owe participants and communities in return for their participation have changed over the past decade. Recent ethical policy developments in biobanking emphasize transparency, informed consent, governance and oversight, responsible use of resources, participant and community engagement, and return of value. These developments include updates to the Declaration of Helsinki, the Seattle Principles, NCI

and ISBER Best Practices, and discussions to revise the Declaration of Taipei. Additionally, a recently proposed draft policy from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) requires returning summary research results to participants in all clinical research conducted or supported by the NIH. This presentation will explore these policy developments and their implications and challenges for informed consent, participant and community engagement, biobanking governance, and operations. Biobanks should begin planning how to respond to these changes and how to best engage participants and communities to honor their contributions to research.

ORAL ABSTRACTS PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, Oct. 29 1:15pm – 3:15pm

#	Abstract Title	Presenter	Institution
4	Rapid Implementation and Scaling of a Prospective Endocrine Surgery Biobank in a High-Volume Specialty Hospital	Fabio Faucz	Hospital for Endocrine Surgery Research Center, HCA Healthcare Research Institute, Tampa, FL, USA
16	Unsustainable Success: Why Productive Research Cohorts Cannot Sustain Biorepository Operations—And Strategies for Long-Term Sustainability “	Gregory Kirk	Johns Hopkins Biological Repository (JHBR), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
50	Operational Scaling of the Aswan Heart Centre Cardiovascular Biobank: Standardization, Quality, and Traceability	Basma Shenouda	Aswan Heart Centre, Aswan, Egypt
21	Driving Discovery: Adapting to Key Research Trends at the Ontario Tumour Bank	Riley Cox	Ontario Tumour Bank, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, ON, Canada
24	Engaging Participant Advisors to Inform Blood Collection: Lessons from the Ontario Health Study	Andrea Huston	Ontario Health Study, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, ON, Canada
43	Evolving Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources: The Fourth Edition of the NCI Best Practices for Biospecimen Resources	Abhi K. Rao	Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research Branch (BBRB), Cancer Diagnosis Program, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA
18	Advancing Equitable Rare Disease Research: Characterizing a Diverse Pediatric Optic Pathway Glioma Cohort in the Kids Eye Biobank	Abdullah Al Sheikh Zein	Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada
51	Systematic Evaluation of Preanalytical Variables Affecting Cerebrospinal Fluid and Plasma Proteomics	Kotaro Hattori	Department of Biobanking, Medical Genome Center, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan

LIST OF POSTER ABSTRACTS

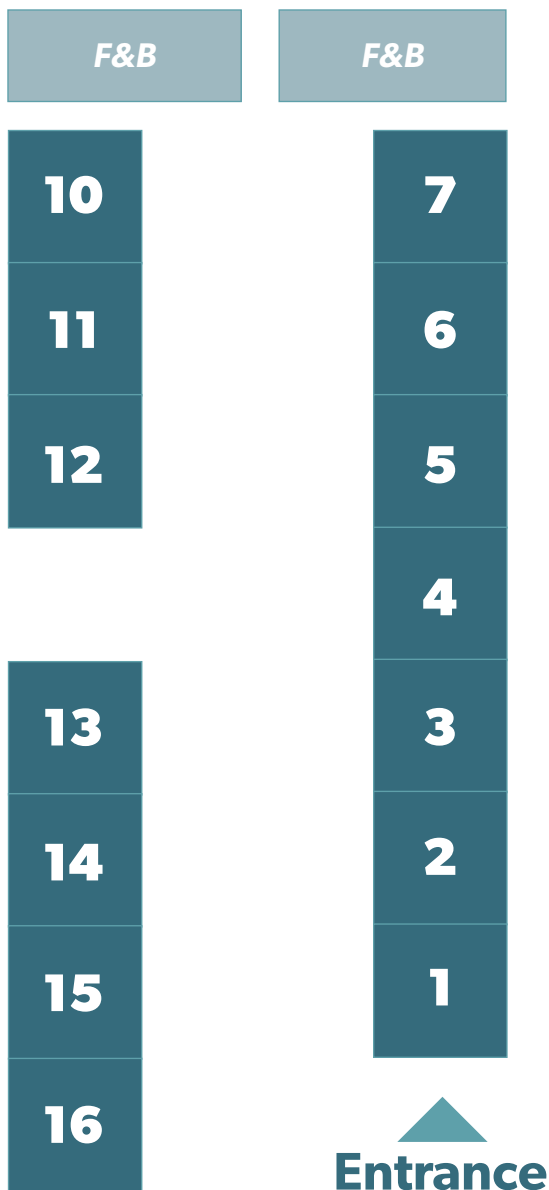
#	Abstract Title	Category	Presenter	List of Authors
1	A Framework for a Biobank Database Build: Discovery, Build, Validation	Biobank Tools	Anthony Zamparelli	Werfen, Bedford, Massachusetts, United States
2	Quantitative Tool for Calculating and Classifying Dried Blood Spot Surface Area on Whatman ProteinSaver Cards	Biobank Tools	Lindsay Hayman	Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, Canada
3	Development of a National Dementia Brain Bank Network for Neurodegenerative Disease Research in Korea	Biobanking Profiles (Poster Presentation Only)	Mee Hee Lee	National Institute of Health, Cheongju-si, Republic of Korea
5	The Journey of a Tumour Specimen	Biobanking Profiles (Poster Presentation Only)	Jennifer Petzke	Ontario Tumour Bank, London Health Sciences Centre, London, Canada
6	Unity Health Multiple Sclerosis Biobank: Creation of a Repository to Support Discovery and Validation of Biomarkers for Multiple Sclerosis	Biobanking Profiles (Poster Presentation Only)	Mirjana Jerkic	Unity Health Toronto, Toronto, Canada
7	Building a Contemporary Biobank to Enable Translational, Clinical, and Disease-Focused Research	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Mrinalini Kala	University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix, USA
8	Building Organizational Readiness for a Regional Biospecimen Services Program: Lessons from the Hamilton Regional Biospecimen Services Initiative	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Gino Celebre	Hamilton Regional Biospecimen Services, Hamilton, Canada
9	Canadian Biobank Alliance: Building a Sustainable Infrastructure for Biospecimen Discovery and Research Innovation	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Angela Crawley	Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada
10	Deployment of a Biobank Information Management System Across a Network of Hospital-Based Biobanks	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Laurent Jacotot	Modul-Bio, Canada
11	From Inventory to Impact: A Framework for Maximizing the Scientific Value of Biobank Collections	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Sia Rohra	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada
13	Identifying Priorities of Underrepresented Biobank Participants: Perspectives of Black Patients with Prostate Cancer at the McCain GU Biobank	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Liam Lambert	McCain GU Biobank, Toronto, Canada
15	Understanding Barriers to Clinical Trial Tissue Request Fulfillment: A Biobank Perspective	Biobanking Structures & Cross-sector Partnerships	Kishora Ravichandran	University Health Network, Toronto, Canada
17	"Don't hold your pee": How to Distribute Urine Samples in a Cancer Biobank	Biospecimen Research, Science and Outputs	Zoe Angermeyer	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada
19	At the Core of Precision Medicine: Validation of Bone Marrow Biopsies for Clinical Genomics - An Interim Analysis	Biospecimen Research, Science and Outputs	Mehak Mahajan	Sunnybrook Hematology Biobank, Toronto, Canada
20	CAN-PROMISE: An Integrated Canadian Prostate Cancer Biobank Resource	Biospecimen Research, Science and Outputs	Aurora Mejia	Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, Toronto, Canada

#	Abstract Title	Category	Presenter	List of Authors
23	AI-Enabled Relocation and Consent Assessment for Human Biological Samples	Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Magalie Collet	AstraZeneca, Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA
25	Exploring Patient Partnership in Ontario Biobanks: Insights from a Provincial Workshop Survey	Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Katarina Maksimovic	Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, Canada
26	Navigating the Global Landscape of Human Biological Samples Compliance Requirements	Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Sabrina Goldring	AstraZeneca, Mississauga, Canada
27	Public Communication Initiatives by Biobank Network Japan	Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Takahiro Kamioka	Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization, Tohoku University, Japan
28	Returning Incidental Findings in Biobanking: Genes Identified and Return-to-Patient Procedures	Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Priyanka Seenauth	Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Canada
29	The Brain Tissue Biobank: Improving Biobanking Education and Informed Consent Experience for Patients with Tumours of the Central Nervous System	Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues	Yevanhelina Cherkashyna	Unity Health Toronto, Toronto, Canada
30	A Mixed-Methods Specimen Collection Scoring Framework to Optimize Biorepository Management and Promote Scientific Utilization	Hot Topics	Kurt Langenbach	Precision for Medicine, Frederick, Maryland, USA
31	A More Sustainable Biorepository - Thanks to My Green Lab Certification	Hot Topics	Alexander Tough	McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
32	Building a FAIR-Aligned Ophthalmic Imaging Ecosystem within the Kids Eye Biobank to Support Collaboration, Data Sharing and AI-Enabled Innovation	Hot Topics	Helen Dimaras	The Hospital for Sick Children & University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
34	From Waste to Resource: Strategies in Reducing Single-use Plastics	Hot Topics	Ellen Yu	University Health Network Biospecimen Services, Toronto, Canada
35	Sustainable Science Through Greener Biobanking	Hot Topics	Gregory Grossman	Precision Ocular Biobank, Birmingham, Alabama, USA
36	Pathology Foundation Models for Biomarker Prediction using Whole Slide Images (WSI): The Role of Biobanks	Innovative Technology	Umesh Bhanot	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA
37	A Framework for Monitoring Biobank Performance: Application of Key Performance Indicators in the Kids Eye Biobank	Repository Standards	Alexandra Kostich	The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
38	AI-Assisted Trending of Human Biological Sample Quality Events to Enable Risk-Based Biobank Quality Governance	Repository Standards	Alka Arora	AstraZeneca, Mississauga, Canada
39	Anatomy of Scale-Up: A Post-Mortem of the Biobank-to-Sequencing Workflow	Repository Standards	Ilinca Lungu	Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, Canada
40	Biobanks and Education: Building the Workforce and Vision for the Future	Repository Standards	Judita Kinkorova	Charles University, University Hospital Pilsen, Pilsen, Czech Republic
41	Biorepository Accreditation Program (BAP) Accreditation: Experience from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)	Repository Standards	Chetna Naik	McMaster University (CLSA), Hamilton, Canada
42	Design of a Companion Specimen Repository to Support Longitudinal Precision Oncology	Repository Standards	Wilfrido Mojica	Virchow Medical, Inc., San Diego, California, USA
44	Evolving the Digital Integration Strategy for Automated Biobanking: Lessons from a Large-Scale Biocentre Implementation	Repository Standards	Raul Rios	AstraZeneca, Mississauga, Canada

#	Abstract Title	Category	Presenter	List of Authors
45	From a Single Research to a Provincial Infrastructure: A Framework for Sustainable Growth Through Continuous Quality Improvement	Repository Standards	Sylvie Clairefond	University of Saskatchewan Biobank, Saskatoon, Canada
46	From Global Standards to Local Context: Developing a Comprehensive SOP Framework for an Emerging Liver Biobank in the Philippines	Repository Standards	Orlie John Lavilla	University of the Philippines Manila, Manila, Philippines
47	From Researcher Requests to Data Priorities: Maximizing the Value and Quality of Biobank Data	Repository Standards	Solmaz Ohadian Moghadam	University Health Network, Toronto, Canada
49	Improving Sample Collection Standards through Consistent Quality Control	Repository Standards	Desiree Nsiah-Asare	University Health Network Biospecimen Services, Toronto, Canada
52	Valuable Insight Gained during Concurrent Biorepository Accreditation of Princess Margaret Cancer Biobank and McCain Genitourinary Biobank Awarded by	Repository Standards	Sana Sagri	University Health Network, Toronto, Canada
53	Where Does the Tissue Go? Mapping Surgical-to-Biobank Attrition: A Retrospective Analysis of Barriers to Research Tissue Collection	Repository Standards	Manisha Bhatnagar	University Health Network, Toronto, Canada
54	Leveraging Standardized Preanalytical Metadata to Support AI-Driven Translational Research		Lalita Wadhwa	Texas Children's Heart Center, Texas, USA

VENUE MAP AND EXHIBITOR LISTING

Booth	Exhibitor
1	Azenta Life Sciences
2	Core Cryolab by CooperSurgical
3	Pro-Lab Diagnostics Inc.
4	ISENET-USA, LLC
5	GA International Inc.
6	ThermoFisher Scientific
7	Norgen Biotek Corp.
10 & 11	BSI Systems
12	Hamilton Storage
13	Modul-Bio
14	Resonant Clinical Solutions
15	Canadian Biobank Alliance – Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
16	Chromatographic Specialties Inc.



EXHIBITORS



AZENTA
LIFE SCIENCES

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BSI Systems (BSI, BioShare, and SRL Advantage) is a collection of specimen inventory and resource management products that provide workflow, inventory, and location tracking services for your facility. BSI manages your biobank with a validated software that tracks the complete life cycle of specimens within your repository. BioShare is a web platform for sharing specimens and datasets across a research community. SRL Advantage can aid researchers to locate specimens across a biobanking network.



Canadian
Biobank Alliance
Alliance Canadienne
des **Biobanques**

The **Canadian Biobank Alliance** (CBA) is a national, federated network of biobanks, led by academic researchers. Established in 2021 and based at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI), the CBA originated from the Coronavirus Variants Rapid Response Network (CoVaRR-Net) Biobank to address a critical gap in Canada's capacity to respond rapidly to emerging public health threats through coordinated biospecimen and data sharing. Since its establishment, the CBA has expanded beyond its initial pandemic-focused mandate to support biomedical, clinical, and public health research across both infectious and non-infectious diseases. By integrating biological specimens, associated clinical and research data, and expertise from a growing network of autonomous biobanks across Canada, the CBA strengthens Canada's research infrastructure through harmonized collection, stewardship, and responsible sharing of high-quality biospecimens and data. Through its federated model, participating biobanks maintain local governance and stewardship while contributing to a coordinated national framework that promotes harmonization, interoperability, and secure, ethical sharing of biospecimens, microorganisms, and associated data in compliance with the FAIR principles. Together with its Bioethics and Data Platform pillars, the CBA facilitates collaboration among academic institutions, healthcare organizations, government agencies, and industry partners in Canada and internationally, enhancing research capacity while strengthening preparedness for future public health emergencies.



Chromatographic Specialties Inc.

Chromatographic Specialties is a family-owned and operated company located in Brockville, Ontario, Canada. For over 60 years, we have specialized in supplying top quality Gas & Liquid Chromatography and Sample Preparation consumables and instrumentation to the Canadian scientific community. In 1998, MJS Biolynx Inc. was established under the same roof to fulfill the needs of the growing Life Science research in Canada. Specializing in cell, molecular, and microbiology – this division has remained dedicated to the same philosophies as CSI and provides top quality products for Life Science researchers. From 1998-2023, these companies operated independently, and in 2023 merged into one, with MJS Biolynx remaining as our Life Science division. Chromatographic Specialties has a wide range of products for all your biobanking needs, from 2D barcoded tubes, barcode scanners, cappers, decappers, to labware labelling systems. The CHROMSPEC IDentify is a benchtop labelling instrument that can help you automate your tube labelling process. Simply load your vials or tubes onto the racks, select the desired spreadsheet through our software, and let the instrument do the work in just minutes.

Core Cryolab™ | by  CooperSurgical®

Core Cryolab specializes in providing cryogenic services to the medical and scientific communities including: storage, shipping, biorepository design, construction, and cryogenic equipment sales. Since our doors opened in 2005, we have provided world-class service to some of Canada's most prestigious principal investigators, research institutes, clinical studies and biopharmaceutical communities.



GA International is dedicated to manufacturing high-quality labels that can be seamlessly integrated with automated label printers and applicators. Our labels are designed to meet our customers' most rigorous application conditions and stringent specifications. This includes RFID identification solutions that can be integrated into existing sample management systems. When equipped with the right print-and-apply system, our highly durable labels provide the flexibility required by hospitals, biobanks, and research and clinical labs to perform high throughput processing of tubes, vials, plates, and microscope slides destined for cryogenic storage and histological staining.

HAMILTON

Hamilton Storage, an affiliate entity of Hamilton Company, is a global leader in the design and manufacturing of automated biobanking systems. By safeguarding the integrity of even the most precious samples, our solutions and expert knowledge empower researchers to reach new heights of laboratory efficiency while remaining focused on research. Hamilton Storage continues to develop innovative technologies to fit market needs and be known as the premier sample management company for the biobanking industry.



ISENET (Integrated Systems Engineering Srl) develops and supports Galileo Tissue Microarray technologies for pathology research, biomarker validation and translational medicine. From its headquarters near Milan and its US presence in Philadelphia, ISENET supports pathology laboratories, biobanks and core facilities worldwide — positioning the Galileo platform as the open front-end of digital and molecular pathology, with full core-level traceability from donor block to scanned slide. ISENET combines engineering, pathology workflow expertise and digital integration to support laboratories building tissue microarrays for research, biomarker validation and advanced imaging applications.



Founded in 2003, **Modul-Bio** specializes in IT solutions for the management of biological samples and their associated data. Our BIMS (Biobank Information Management System) and LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System) platforms give biobanks, cohort studies, and research laboratories full traceability across the sample lifecycle, from collection and processing through storage, retrieval, and distribution. Integrated barcode and label printing, freezer and container mapping, and configurable workflows adapt to each site's operating practices rather than requiring them to change. Collaborative tools allow multi-site networks to share and valorize their collections while each participating biobank retains local governance of its own data. Modul-Bio supports academic biobanks, hospital networks, cohort programs, and industry partners across the world.



Norgen Biotek has been committed to customizing high-quality and innovative research tools to serve the scientific community for the past 25 years. Our mission is to provide the highest quality products and services to keep inspiring scientists to find new discoveries for the world. Subsequently, we focus on manufacturing sample collection, preservation, extraction, and detection products to enable our customers to achieve high throughput insights. We provide solutions to our customers in Life Sciences and Molecular Diagnostics. Furthermore, our products are distributed worldwide, and our technology has been featured thousands of times in peer-reviewed scientific publications by researchers from different institutions. Additionally, we have a team dedicated to providing Next Generation Sequencing Services with mastery in handling ultra-low concentration sample types, such as liquid biopsies and exosomes. At Norgen Biotek, we are #AlwaysReady to start long-lasting relationships and guarantee to meet customers' expectations. Working together, we can make the world better for all living beings. For more information, please visit norgebiotek.com.



Pro-Lab has designed and manufactured some of the world's best clinical diagnostic test kits and essential laboratory products. Covering 45 countries, 15,000 hospitals, and OEM solutions for many of the largest multinational IVD companies around the globe for over 50 years. We have offices in Canada, United Kingdom and the United States. We are certified under ISO 13485:2016 (MDSAP) and registered with both the Therapeutic Products Directorate (TPD) of Health Canada and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States.



Resonant Clinical Solutions delivers end-to-end clinical trial and diagnostic services designed to accelerate science. Building on a strong legacy in life sciences logistics, we provide comprehensive solutions that go beyond supply fulfillment—offering agile collaboration and personalized support as an extension of your team. Our expertise spans biorepository management, custom kitting and global logistics, and equipment & ancillary services, ensuring every detail of your research workflow is handled with precision. From procurement and delivery to calibration and recovery, we simplify complex processes while maintaining strict compliance with international standards. With strategically located service centers and a global partner network, we combine technical and regulatory insight with proven experience to serve customers worldwide. At Resonant Clinical Solutions, we're committed to problem-solving, innovation, and helping research and clinical teams move science forward.



Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. (NYSE: TMO) is the world leader in serving science, with annual revenue of approximately \$40 billion. Our Mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer. Whether our customers are accelerating life sciences research, solving complex analytical challenges, increasing productivity in their laboratories, improving patient health through diagnostics or the development and manufacture of life-changing therapies, we are here to support them. Our global team delivers an unrivaled combination of innovative technologies, purchasing convenience and pharmaceutical services through our industry-leading brands, including Thermo Scientific, Applied Biosystems, Invitrogen, Fisher Scientific, Unity Lab Services, Patheon and PPD.